

## **Philosophy of Partnership (Mutuality in Mission)**

**Relationship Building** – Partnerships are grounded in building relationships between people of different cultural, economic, and class situations. Relationships built on authenticity and equity enable trust to be developed and insights gleaned from various perspectives. It moves beyond the “doing” required by a program or service to an “accompaniment” and a practice of presence with others who are different than you are.

**Power Equity** – Partnerships understand that decision making is an inclusive process which honors, and values experiences and knowledge brought by people of different economic, cultural, education and classes. They insure decision making happens utilizing a variety of settings and processes to ensure a shared vision, reciprocity and mutually reinforcing actions.

**Asset Based** – Partnerships recognize the assets (individuals’ gifts, graces, talents & physical resources) within the community and each person as relationships are built, and programs are developed which utilize the assets and respond to the hopes and desires of the community. Asset based vs needs-based thinking and development empowers residents and the community as a whole to leverage the assets already present.

**Vulnerability** – Partnerships require leaders to operate out of humility, vulnerability, and courage to truly be in partnership. Practiced over time this posture of service and leadership can lead to authentic relationships as trust is established.

**Financial Transparency** - Partnerships ensure that financial responsibility begins with a clear understanding of the financial participation from all partners. This includes financial contributions towards the project, accounting practices and procedures which track and account for the funds raised and spent, and proper reporting of both finances and project results.

**Sustainable Impact** – Partnerships acknowledge that local participants are critical to making the changes to the systems and structures and bring about long-term change to realize a shared vision. There is recognition that people within the community have insights, leadership, and assets and that outside partners can be catalytic in building upon those assets to bring about the necessary short term and long-term impact regarding food security, health care, affordable housing, etc.