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Residents: Northside Model Of Community Rehabilitation

Renewal Continues Long After Major Gang Bust

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CINCINNATI -- As other Cincinnati neighborhoods celebrate the arrest of several alleged gang members, Northside is busy reclaiming its streets after a previous roundup.

In 2008, police in the Northside community arrested several members of the "Taliband" gang.

Homeowner Jeff Campbell said he was just moving into the community with police executed that operation.

"I moved in about a week before Halloween two years ago and barely anyone on the street had their lights on," Campbell said. "Now this year, there's several more families passing out candy and already a lot more traffic than the past two years combined."

As the gang members were shuffled out, more families moved in and several community groups got working on improving Northside.

"We know when we bring in homeowners we can really make a huge difference in what happens," said Sister Barbara Busch, the executive director of Working In Neighborhoods.

Before that roundup, Busch said Fergus Street in Northside saw 18 foreclosures in as many months. That brought with it a host of problems.

"Drug dealings, in fact a couple of the houses we bought even had drug labs in them," Busch said.

Her group purchased seven homes, renovated them and then found families to invest in them.

"Which makes a huge difference, to our crime rate, to our children's safety -- to families in general," Busch said.

Northside residents said their success is a glimpse into what can happen when people report crime, rehab their community and encourage home ownership.

"A bit of a comeback in just two years, and there's still a ways to go, but a good start," Campbell said.

WIN is hosting an even with Cincinnati Bengals players at Paul Brown Stadium. The event includes an auction and will be held on Nov. 15.

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