

Advisory Committee Member Profiles

Angela Brooks



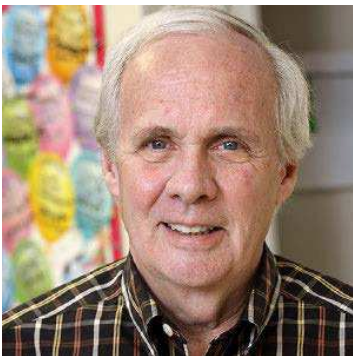
Angela Brooks is a young mom with two teenaged sons. Friendship Court has been her home for more than fifteen years, and she's seen a lot of changes in that time. "It's definitely gotten better," she says, but there's room for improvement. That's why Angela joined two committees focused on staying informed and providing input throughout redevelopment. An active member of the Residents' Association, Angela volunteered to join the Advisory Committee as well. "I want to see what's going on and stay informed. I want all the residents to be treated equally. I can help reassure other people in the neighborhood if I'm getting information firsthand instead of second- or third-hand."

Angela works as a teacher of two-and-a-half to three-year-old children at Park Street Christian Preschool by day and cleans office buildings at night, leaving her little free time. It is noteworthy, then, that Angela chooses to spend some of that time attending meetings and making connections with community stakeholders involved in Friendship Court's redevelopment.

"I think redevelopment is going to help the community be a friendlier, calmer place and a good place to call home. I'm looking forward to all the improvements to the apartments," she said.

We're delighted to have another long-term Friendship Court resident contributing to the redevelopment conversation. Welcome, Angela!

Bill Edgerton, FAIA



Bill Edgerton is a member of the Friendship Court Advisory Committee, formed in February 2016. The committee will provide guidance to the Piedmont Housing Alliance in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community life. As a member of the committee, Bill hopes to integrate his knowledge of energy efficiency and minimizing the negative impacts of indoor air quality.

In 2002, Bill was privileged to provide pro bono architectural services to Friendship Court (then called Garrett Square) when the Piedmont Housing Authority and the National Housing Trust assumed the responsibility of renovating and managing the complex.

Bill has practiced as an architect in Charlottesville for nearly thirty years. His professional focus has always been on energy efficiency and environmentally sustainable affordable design. Bill is a former member of the Albemarle County Planning Commission.

Kathy Galvin



Kathy Galvin, a member of Charlottesville City Council, is serving on Friendship Court's Advisory Committee, formed in February 2016. The committee is providing guidance to the Piedmont Housing Alliance in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community life. The active involvement of City officials in the planning process is an essential element of grant support, provided to Piedmont Housing by the City, for the project.

Kathy owns her own urban design and architectural practice, which is designated a Virginia "Woman-Owned Small Business." She is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Virginia. Kathy has worked on such projects as the Eastern Planning Initiative, the Crozet Master Plan, the Places29 Master Plan and Transportation Study and the Uptown North Orange Form-Based Code.

Kathy notes that "as an architect, urban designer and planner with about 30 years of experience . . . she has a trained eye when it comes to matters of sustainable, equitable neighborhood design." She also believes that "it's important to have people at the table with institutional memory so that expressed community values aren't forgotten."

Kathy received a bachelor's degree in Economics and Geography from Boston University, and a master's in Architecture from the University of Virginia.

Sheri Hopper



Sheri Hopper is one of nine residents of Friendship Court nominated and elected by her fellow residents, in February 2016, to serve on the neighborhood's redevelopment advisory committee.

The committee, which meets regularly with the project's design team, will be providing guidance to Piedmont Housing in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community life. As Piedmont Housing's CEO, Frank Grosch has said of the project, "If it doesn't work for the current residents, it doesn't work for us."

Sheri, who has lived at Friendship Court for sixteen years, has two children and one grandson. She has been helping Piedmont Housing with community outreach since April 2015. Sheri is excited about all that she will learn, and the opportunity to get to know even more people — those working on the project, and more her neighbors — through her role on the advisory committee.

Myrtle Houchens



Myrtle Houchens, a former resident of Friendship Court, is a member of Friendship Court's redevelopment advisory committee, which was formed in February 2016. The committee will provide guidance to the Piedmont Housing Alliance in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community life.

You could say that Myrtle wrote the book on community life at Friendship Court, as the driving force behind establishing the neighborhood's community center. "It wasn't just housing," she says of her 22 years living at Friendship Court (then called Garrett Square), "it was home." Although she hasn't lived there for almost a decade, and both of her own children have grown up and graduated from college, Myrtle faithfully returns to "her" Friendship Court community center for several weeks each summer to run a kids' cafe, providing nightly dinners for the neighborhood's children.

As a single mother, Myrtle originally moved to the neighborhood from Louisa County in the 1970s to be closer to UVA Medical Center, because her son required regular visits to the hospital. For the past 29 years, Myrtle has worked for Charlottesville schools and parks and recreation, as an instructional

assistant (first at Clark Elementary School and now at Venable), and in neighborhood community centers. For her unwavering commitment to others, Myrtle was named one of the Daily Progress's "distinguished dozen" in 2009. In the paper's profile, it was noted that "[s]aying 'no' just doesn't seem to be part of Myrtle Houchens' vocabulary." The advisory committee is so fortunate that this dynamic and inspiring community advocate has said "yes" to providing leadership in the neighborhood's redevelopment efforts.

Crystal Johnson



Crystal Johnson is one of nine residents of Friendship Court nominated and elected by her fellow residents, in February 2016, to serve on the Friendship Court Advisory Committee. The committee, which has been meeting regularly with the project's design team, is providing guidance to Piedmont Housing Alliance in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community life.

Crystal is a mother of six children. Her school-aged children attend Charlottesville City Schools, and her family has lived at Friendship Court for a total of ten years. A domestic violence survivor, Crystal says she is interested in being part of the positive changes she sees happening in her Friendship Court community, and has gotten to know other families who feel the same way. She wishes to be a part of a more unified neighborhood and community, and is interested to learn about what her neighbors think and care about through her work on the Advisory Committee.

Crystal is a member of First Baptist Church, where she has volunteered as a Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teaching assistant. She will be graduating from Piedmont Virginia Community College this spring, and plans to continue her studies at Mary Baldwin College.

Zafar Kahn



Zafar Khan is one of nine residents of Friendship Court nominated and elected by his fellow residents, in February 2016, to serve on the Friendship Court Advisory Committee.

The committee, which has been meeting regularly with the project's design team, is providing guidance to Piedmont Housing Alliance in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community

life. “The people that . . . know Friendship Court are the people that live there,” Frank Grosch, Piedmont Housing’s CEO, has said. The redevelopment process is intended to “pair up the experts at Friendship Court, the people who live there, with city planners and a world-class team of designers to build a beautiful and vibrant community.”

Originally from Afghanistan, Zafar has a professional background in establishing peace, and organizing workshops and conferences. For eleven years, he worked with the United Nations. Zafar is currently a student at Piedmont Virginia Community College, and has also worked for the International Rescue Committee as an interpreter on a volunteer basis, since coming to Charlottesville. He hopes to bring his skills and experience working with a wide variety of people to the advisory committee.

Betty Lowry



Betty Lowry is one of nine residents of Friendship Court nominated and elected by her fellow residents, in February 2016, to serve on the Friendship Court Advisory Committee.

The committee, which meets regularly with the project’s design team, will be providing guidance to Piedmont Housing Alliance in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community life. From the outset of this ambitious and promising project, “Piedmont Housing is committed to placing residents at the center of the planning for the future of their own community and to translating their hopes and desires into design.”

Betty, who has lived at Friendship Court for twelve years, is retired and has grown children. She is excited to help with the planning process, and to get to know more of her fellow residents through her work on the committee.

Tyquan Mayo



Tyquan Mayo is one of nine Friendship Court residents on the Youth Leadership Team. The team has been meeting regularly since September at the Friendship Court Community Center and is an important part of Piedmont Housing Alliance’s resident engagement in the redevelopment of

Friendship Court. The goal is to equip resident youth leaders with the skills to provide input for the redevelopment with particular focus on activity areas, green space, and programming. Youth participants gain valuable skills, experiences, and academic and professional networks that will create educational and career opportunities.

Tyquan, was 13 and in the 8th grade at Buford Middle School when he joined the committee. He has a special love of hamsters and cheese sticks. He is interested in meteorology and hopes to become a meteorologist one day after possibly attending Michigan State University. His favorite color is bright pink and he likes listening to the Beatles. When asked where he would like to go on vacation, Tyquan said Dubai because he thinks it looks like a really beautiful place. Tyquan says he is learning about managing money along with becoming a leader.

Tyquan was interested in becoming a member of the Youth Leadership Team because he wants to learn more about what is going on with the redevelopment. He is interested in finding out what it's going to look like, especially the green spaces.

Sarah McLean



Sarah McLean, a Director of the Aduivans Relief Fund and the Aduivans Foundation, a local philanthropy, is a member of the Friendship Court Advisory Committee. The committee will provide guidance to the Piedmont Housing Alliance in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community life.

In her work with Aduivans, Sarah focuses on early intervention for young children and on a wide range of projects in the areas of health care, affordable housing, and food insecurity in the greater Charlottesville area. Through this work, Sarah has had the opportunity to learn about and support Piedmont Housing Alliance's affordable housing efforts. Sarah is passionate about meeting the needs of our community's most vulnerable residents, especially its families. She sees the redevelopment of Friendship Court as a unique opportunity to design affordable housing with an eye to accessibility, education, community health, and family support.

Sarah has a deep interest in public health, which she puts into practice as a volunteer nurse at the Greene County Free Clinic. She also serves on the board of The Arbor, a Charlottesville not-for-profit that provides a residential recovery program for survivors of human trafficking. She is a member of the Charlottesville/Albemarle Early Education Task Force, exploring the provision of accessible, high-quality pre-K for at-risk children in our community. Sarah received her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from the University of Virginia. She lives in Free Union with her husband and four children.

Mike Murphy



Mike Murphy, the Assistant City Manager for the City of Charlottesville, is a member of Friendship Court's redevelopment advisory committee, which was formed in February 2016. The committee will provide guidance to the Piedmont Housing Alliance in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community life. The active involvement of City staff in the planning process is an essential element of grant support, provided to Piedmont Housing by the City, for the project.

Mike has worked as a counselor, program manager, agency director, and department head for local government for over twenty years. He has extensive experience in the areas of residential and community-based programs, workplace readiness, housing, child welfare, and fostering personal and economic growth in low-income communities.

Mike is excited to have the opportunity to work with residents on the redevelopment of Friendship Court. He believes this project presents a tremendous opportunity to preserve critically important affordable housing resources within the City, while also developing a vibrant local community through engagement.

Mike received both his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Counselor Education degrees from the University of Virginia.

Daemond Nowlin



Daemond Nowlin is one of nine Friendship Court residents on the Youth Leadership Team. The team has been meeting regularly after school since September at the Friendship Court Community Center and is learning many skills to help better their community. The Youth Leadership Program is part of Piedmont Housing Alliance's resident engagement process for the redevelopment of Friendship Court. The goal is to equip resident youth leaders with the skills to provide input for the redevelopment with particular focus on activity areas, green space, and programming. Youth participants gain valuable skills, experiences, and academic and professional networks that will create educational and career opportunities.

Daemond, was 14 and attended Charlottesville High School when he joined the committee. He is a dedicated football player and is hoping to become an NFL player when he is older. His favorite color is blue and when asked what he would do with a large gift of money, Daemond says he would buy a house and a reliable car. Daemond says he is learning a lot about being a leader while in the program.

Daemond was interested in becoming a member of the Youth Leadership Team because he wants to make a difference in his community.

Yolonda Ross



Yolonda Ross is one of nine residents of Friendship Court nominated and elected by her fellow residents, in February 2016, to serve on the Friendship Court Advisory Committee. The committee, which has been meeting regularly with the project's design team, is providing guidance to Piedmont Housing Alliance in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community life.

Yolonda has been a resident of Friendship Court for five years, and her daughter attends Clark Elementary school. She has a particular interest in representing the perspective of community residents who are working, and are interested in better local employment opportunities.

She is a graduate of Fluvanna County High School, and of National College (formerly, National Business College) where she received training as a medical office specialist.

Kevin White



Kevin White, an assistant vice president at NHT-Enterprise, is a member of the Friendship Court Advisory Committee, which was formed in February 2016. The committee is providing guidance to the Piedmont Housing Alliance in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community life. On the committee, Kevin represents NHT-Enterprise, which will remain part of the ownership group when Friendship Court is redeveloped. NHT-Enterprise is excited to continue its partnership with Piedmont Housing as Friendship Court enters a new chapter of what affordable housing looks and feels like in Charlottesville.

NHT-Enterprise is a joint effort of the National Housing Trust, a not-for-profit affordable housing advocate based in Washington, D.C., and Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., a real estate investment services company focused on affordable housing. As a nonprofit affordable housing developer and owner, NHT-Enterprise's mission is to preserve and improve affordable housing for low-income residents. Since 1999, NHT-Enterprise has preserved over 5,000 homes in ten states and the District of Columbia. In 2002, NHT-Enterprise partnered with Piedmont Housing to acquire Friendship Court (then called Garrett Square) and complete a significant renovation, thereby stabilizing the property and preserving its affordability.

Before joining NHT-Enterprise, Kevin was a real estate development director at the national office of Volunteers of America. He has worked in the affordable housing development field since 1995. Kevin started his career in community development as an AmeriCorps*VISTA community organizer, assisting Habitat for Humanity homeowners in creating neighborhood-based homeowner's associations. Kevin holds a master's degree in Community Planning from the University of Maryland, College Park and a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston. He also serves on the board of St. Mary's Housing Corporation, which owns five affordable housing properties in Northern Virginia serving low-income seniors. Kevin and his family live in Washington, D.C.

Tamara Wright



Tamara Wright is one of nine residents of Friendship Court nominated and elected by her fellow residents, in February 2016, to serve on the Friendship Court Advisory Committee. The committee, which has been meeting regularly with the project's design team, is providing guidance to Piedmont Housing Alliance in two primary areas: physical revitalization and community life.

A busy mother of three, Tamara still finds ways to be involved in her community, including her service on the advisory committee. She also serves on the Urban Agricultural Collective of Charlottesville (UACC) board of directors and is a member of the Friendship Court Residents Association. UACC has been a key partner at Friendship Court for nine years. It is so important to have dedicated community members like Tamara involved in different aspects of planning Friendship Court's future, including building on the vision for community life that Todd Neimeier ("Farmer Todd") and UACC have developed with local residents over many years.

In addition to raising her children, as a single mother, and her community commitments, Tamara also works part-time, and has been pursuing a degree from Piedmont Virginia Community College.