Saying YES
Diana Clark
Youth Conflict Resolution Center, Inc., Dallas, TX
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, **Youth Conflict Resolution Center, Inc.**, will offer services to homeless youth by providing personal care items, homework assistance, and tools for conflict resolution in daily life.

“**Yes**” is used to communicate that you are ready for an opportunity. I sometimes do not know how to react to this word because it might be misunderstood. But faith teaches us to depend on the Lord’s guidance and step out. Of course, that can mean being open to the people who come into your space. So, I prayed and stepped out to start a ministry for youth. I did not know the plans, but a surprise email and phone call started the journey. Sometimes you just need to be silent and wait for another opportunity to say yes. So, I said **YES** to the SENT Seminar.

What a wonderful training SENT was for me and the Youth Conflict Resolution Center, Inc. non-profit. We decided to start a new project... I was not sure about the word ‘ministry’. I now believe the church and non-profits are charitable organizations with a similar mission.

The word that describes this journey is transformation. This organization’s main vision is to transform youths’ daily lives by teaching conflict resolution skills.

How did that come about? I became a mediator and started doing family mediation. After a few years, I had a divorce case. The youth did not have a chance to speak about their situation. That day I decided to educate the youth on how to make their voices heard. Youth deal with conflict daily and need communication skills. To my surprise others agreed. Thus, Youth Conflict Resolution Center, Inc. started.

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In 2015 I made a U-turn and heard about the word ‘ministry’. I began to pray and ask questions about the word from a Disciples of Christ Church. I began to pray and speak to my Pastor. I realized that every thought began within the heart. I also realized that this is not just about me; it will be a community effort. The community plans are to make a difference in the lives of our youth. Many years have passed but my direction is still focused on a non-profit for youth (Youth Conflict Resolution Center, Inc.).

I never imagined that both visions could come together. Thus, the journey with National Benevolent Association has become an eye opener. The SENT seminar made the vision very clear. I am focused on the goals for the project (Cleanliness Washes Away Conflict) because of what I learned from Leadership Coaching by Greg Turk and the process of Self Talk. I am listening and decreeing to move forward. I hear all the time that charity is part of the Church’s work, but Dietra Wise Baker asked, “is that enough?” Why did Jesus come? What is your organization’s mission? So, I began to discuss this with our board members. They are excited to make changes that will affect a broader community.

I am changing. But, as always, action speaks louder than vision or word. My heart is filled like a river. I have met so many people who have reached out and touched my heart. I wait for the mercy that the word YES will have for us.

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I No Longer Feel Alone
Ashley L. Cochran
Addison’s Neighbor (formerly Home4 Every1), Montgomery, AL
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

In September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, Addison’s Neighbor, will provide permanent supportive housing and services to transitional aged youth who have aged out and are parenting minor children.

Social entrepreneurship can be a lonely space. Exciting, fun, but very lonely. As your mind produces innovations that will help to solve the world’s most challenging issues, you put pen to paper and begin to make plans- but then what? That was the mental space that I was in when I decided to attend SENT Seminar.

As an advocate for the homeless population and champion for foster youth, I envisioned an agency, Addison’s Neighbor, where youth who are parenting minor children and have aged out of foster care would have a permanent home with intensive supports to prevent homelessness and provide foster youth with the permanency that everyone deserves. Permanent supportive housing has worked with chronically homeless adults, but it has not been used as a tool to eliminate homelessness for former foster youth with custody of their minor children. Addison’s Neighbor will be the first agency in the United States to serve this population with permanent housing. In addition to the permanent housing, intensive supports (medical and mental health, parenting, employment, education, etc.) will be provided to all clients and their minor children who are lovingly referred to as Neighbors).

As we work together to fight homelessness in our states, cities, and towns, Addison’s Neighbor is necessary to serve an underserved population that is in need of critical services to aid in their permanency; however, I needed some reassurance that I was going in the right direction. As a participant at the SENT Seminar, I received nbacares.org
reassurance and encouragement to move forward with my non-profit organization. Additionally, SENT Seminar provided participants with tools to succeed through small group work, knowledgeable speakers, and hands on activities that mentally pushed us out of our comfort zones as caring people and more into the mindset of entrepreneurs who are changing the world.

Gathering with other social entrepreneurs from around the United States and Canada was a priceless experience and for once during my personal journey to Addison’s Neighbor, I did not feel alone. I was surrounded by innovative thinkers who were just like me! Being in fellowship with others who are working to use their talents, skills, and ideas to make the lives of those around them better through innovative ministries was one of the most important things that I could have taken away from SENT Seminar. Social justice, leadership, fundraising, and marketing strategies have all been added to my toolbox as a SENT Seminar participant.

I am moving forward with developing Addison’s Neighbor and my head space is drastically different from when I arrived for the Seminar the first day. I no longer feel alone. I have the comradery of SENT Seminar participants and NBA staff. Homelessness for former foster youth who are parents of minor children will be eradicated one home at a time and I have National Benevolent Association’s SENT Seminar to thank for helping bring life to a social enterprise such as Addison’s Neighbor. I was created to care, and Addison’s Neighbor is a manifestation of that very thought.

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Learning What It Takes to Launch a Sustainable Model
Courtney Armento
BERTH: Birthing Elevation, Reclamation, Thriving & Healing - Chicago, IL
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

In September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, BERTH, intends to serve and advocate for people experiencing domestic and intimate partner violence (DV/IPV), and to bring the church into conversation around the effects of DV/IPV and proper ways to respond.

The social service vision that has been given to me for ministry is for a subversive community. Addressing domestic and intimate partner violence is not a part of the mainstream conversation. In fact, the conversation inside the church around this social justice issue is almost non-existent. When I share my vision with others, I am met with support, quite often people confess their own experience with intimate partner violence in the moment. Those are private, one-on-one conversations where space is created for radical honesty. I understand that there is still shame, stigma and silence (3-S’s) deeply embedded around individuals and communities that are affected. The three S’s impact the mainstream receptivity to advocacy, awareness, and transformation.

It is my deepest hope that, BERTH, A Safe Harbor for Healing, will start a conversation that invites victims, survivors, faith leaders, faith communities to radically dismantle the three S’s. BERTH stands for Birthing Elevation, Reclamation, Thriving & Healing. The name of the organization represents what victors and survivors need to restore their wholeness and catapult them to a vibrant experience of life after trauma.

We make this possible through a plan called E.A.R.T.H., which stands for:
- **Education** (Providing workshops and training to educate and prepare communities and faith leaders for compassionate radical response through appropriate pastoral care models)

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• **Advocacy** (Identifying ways in which the faith community can be active and in communication, communally and individually to support and be a healing presence to impacted individuals, with knowledge of a plethora of resources for their community)

• **Restoration** (Connecting victims to themselves and God is a key aspect of connecting them to safety and healing, restoring their awareness of wholeness and divine love, informs and inspires individuals to take crucial next steps)

• **Transformation** (Individuals who participate in the programs will be enlivened to reclaim their voice, their agency and amplify their sense of wholeness which may eventually lead to community activism, participation and a wellspring of opportunities to impact the common good, but most importantly, to begin to break the cycle of violence in their families and their lives)

• **Healing** (1-Create inclusive healing services, where individuals can bring their brokenness and pain into a loving and receptive space to be encouraged and accepted without judgement. Offering theological reflection, contemplative practices, spoken word, music, movement, and meal fellowship. 2-Create workshop programs that include personal empowerment, creating healthy boundaries, re-storying our lives, mantras for survival, God in our midst, self-esteem for teens, and teen and adult dating 101)

We live in a culture that normalizes domestic and intimate partner violence. Comedians make light of it in stand-up routines, many of our early soul singers experienced it, the contemporary artists that experience it sing about it, film and TV have portrayed it, and we do not take the conversation further. The time has come to shift the culture from silent acceptance to active resistance.

At SENT Seminar I gained valuable insight to the necessary components of launching a sustainable model. The tracks that I found most helpful were the nuances of legalities for non-profits, fundraising, marketing and social media. The self-care module was informative and necessary. The takeaways that I carry with me are many, but the importance of staying true and consistent to the mission, values and vision help to drive BERTH forward.

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Dwelling Together in Unity
Eliot Angueira & Hilda Ivette Chévere
Garden of Eden Health Center, Kissimmee, FL (operating in Jayuya, PR)
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, Garden of Eden Health Center, aims to utilize a team approach to enhance access to primary health care services and post-disaster health care in underserved rural communities.

Psalm 133:1 (NKJV): Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

This seminar was our first experience with the National Benevolent Association (NBA). It was an effective opportunity to learn new things and clarify others, by means of the seminar topics. The topics included were the most important for the first steps of any project. Our expectation was to acquire resources and, undoubtedly, we received the appropriate tools to move the Garden of Eden Health Center Project to the next level.

Previously, Storm Isaac presented a hinderance to our attending this seminar, but it could not stop us. Then Hurricane Florence almost affected the agenda, but the NBA staff re-engineered things and worked to provide us with self-care tips, with Rev. Angela Whitenhill presenting remotely via video as she could not travel due to her home being in the storm’s path. As the Psalmist sang: those experiences make us ‘to dwell together in unity’.

Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker let us know that the inequality in our society is present and closer to us that we think. The local pastor that was with us then opened our eyes to see how the church has a lot to do outside the walls of our buildings. Ms. Geetha Rao

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Sant was patient and took time to give us ample information about some complicated topics which are very necessary to develop our projects the right way.

Some excellent and supportive speakers, Kasi Zieminski, Jordan Bles, and Rev. LaShaundra McCarty presented on nonprofit marketing and development. They were so open to us during and outside of their presentations. Rev. Gregory Turk was the speaker with the responsibility to ‘re-wire our brain’. He encouraged us to ‘take a picture’ of where we want our project and/or dream to be, without looking back to our yesterday. He started his presentation with an end result thinking, and our end result thinking was that we cannot put our vision down to the perceived limitations of our capacity. We cannot forget Rev. Rebecca Hale, Rev. Ayanna Johnson Watkins and Larry J. Morris III, who made us feel like we were family. They showed us how we can be organized but at the same time get needs met appropriately. Kara Whitehouse, thanks for all your hard work behind the scenes to allow us be part of this experience.

This SENT seminar was an extraordinary interaction and collaboration between us. We all were volunteers from different placements and different fields. We all had a lot to do but an important thing is that we came here with the interest to get to know and to ‘connect’ each other, building brotherhood in a pleasant environment like the Union Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

We enjoyed each transition when Ayanna praised, sang and prayed, reminding us that being well is more important than being successful. This 2018 SENT Seminar was in the Lord’s plan and it could be described as: How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God’s people to live together in harmony! That is where the Lord has promised his blessing – life that never ends. [Psalm 133:1, 3b (GNB)]

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Discerning the way forward
Rev. Hyo Cheol (Peter) Kim
Good Life Care Center, Los Angeles, CA
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, the Good Life Care Resource Center, will support immigrants and low-income individuals and families in Koreatown and downtown Los Angeles area by providing translation services, childcare, and other services.

At the moment, the Good Life Care Center, a non-profit organization, is preparing to focus on two objectives that will be centered around Koreatown and Downtown Los Angeles.

The first objective is to open the Good Life Care Resource Center, in which ministries are available to assist immigrants and low-income individuals who cannot speak English or cannot receive the benefits from the government; we will prepare translators. Through a consultant, we will be able to provide resources in three languages. If anyone cannot visit our center, they can simply contact us and we will be pleased to provide them with transportation.

The second objective is to support low-income families and single parents by purchasing a building for an afterschool, daycare, preschool, and Korean Saturday school program that will be provided by the center. Parents and families will be able to give their children an education that will be entirely free and the teachers /

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directors, who will be 1.5 or second generation, will get paid to guide the students in
different subjects.

There are nineteen members who are contributing to the Good Life Care Center and
the age range is from high schoolers to seniors. Together, first, 1.5, and second
generation individuals have assembled to provide resources in this community to
immigrant families and single parents who are in difficult financial situations.

It has been twelve years since I have lived in Los Angeles and for ten years, I worked a
full-time job while working as a minister. After contributing to missionary work for 8
years, I concluded that I needed a new solution. I came to the idea that in this new
era, churches should change to become a place where people can do missionary
work outside.

The Good Life Care Center held its first meeting in March of 2018 but the Vision of
Jesus Church developed this idea for eight years which is why we prioritized the
members of the church. Because I needed board members when this organization
started, I created a basic mission statement as a document and shared my visions
with those who have been with me for more than ten years. Among the people I met
with, six members within my congregation agreed to support this organization and
six others who attend different churches and have different jobs also joined as new
members, which led to the twelve attendees in the first meeting.

Soon, I met new people, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
(LACDMH) Korean staff. I was able to gain more knowledge about mental health,
attend seminars and meetings related to mental health as a religious leader, and
meet with other religious leaders in Koreatown. This August, I started to participate in
the Asian Pacific Islander Underserved Community Communities (API UsCC)
meetings and thought about how much I can do for the Korean community after
learning about the activities LACDMH does for the Asian and Pacific Islander
community.

Currently, the most unfortunate factor is that even though LACDMH has various types
of resources, community members cannot receive the help they can get since most
are immigrants who do not communicate in English. It is not very significant since all
the information is in English. We need to become the bridge for the members in the
community so that they can get the resources they need in their home language.
There are several non-profit organizations who are vendors of the LACDMH, but in reality, there are still not enough services to provide to multi-ethnic groups in Koreatown and Downtown Los Angeles. We will need a lot more financial aid in the future and we all know that this is not an easy mission but with the Pacific Southwest Region (PSWR), different non-profit organizations, and government agencies hand-in-hand, I believe that this organization will play the role of light and salt to the members of this community. We are planning to make the final arrangements by the end of 2018 and process our objectives in 2019. Looking back in the time that has passed, I hope that the NBA will continue with this non-profit organization since it is best fit for the denomination and community. With a great spirit and mind, I am looking forward to working together so that we can plan to connect with others to help change the community.

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Courage and Knowledge to Move Forward
Jennifer Berlyoung
Harmony Springs Farm & Garden, Akron, OH
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

In September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, Harmony Springs Farm & Garden, grows fruits, vegetables and herbs for the local community and aims to turn the garden into a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and community garden.

My experience at SENT Seminar was absolutely amazing and has jump-started the trajectory of the church’s garden project. The Harmony Springs Christian Church Farm and Garden opened in 2016 as a ministry of the church in order to bring fresh produce to the local community. A significant portion of the weekly harvest has always been donated to a local food pantry for those in need. The garden expanded slightly in 2017 to approximately 1/5 an acre and nearly 200 plants, increasing produce donations to 40% of the weekly harvest. It was at this time that we pinpointed the call to open a CSA – Community Supported Agriculture – where members of the community who can afford to, will receive a basket of weekly vegetables and fruits for a set price and will also take part in tending the garden. Those in need will receive vegetables solely for their time spent tending the garden.

In 2018, the Farm and Garden continued to donate a significant portion to the community food bank and started to refine a vision, in addition to the CSA, to invite foster children, youth, and families to take advantage of the garden. In this space there is opportunity to experience love, hope, and healing through the planting and harvesting process.

Pastor Fred Rogers (the well-known “Mr. Rogers” to most) once said, “We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not..."
my community, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.” Here at Harmony Springs, we are more than happy to step up to the plate, reaching out to help.

Attending SENT seminar has provided me with the courage and knowledge to write out a five-year plan with confidence. Before attending the seminar, I could have never guessed what a blessing NBA Incubate Initiative would be for our project. I learned about setting up a 501(c)(3), how to select key volunteers and board members, effective fundraising, and strength in leadership. The ability to look back at handouts, my own notes, and online resources is indispensable. I owe a debt of gratitude to the NBA Incubate Initiative!
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First Things First
Joella Coles
Journey of Faith, Ann Arbor, MI
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, Journey of Faith, aims to understand the best entry points for churches to engage social services systems and to collaborate with marginalized community members, in order to address underlying causes of complex social problems.

We Rebuilt the Altar

First things, first.

Before the exiled Jews started work on the foundation of the Temple ... Before they started to erect the walls of the Temple ... (Ezra 3:8-13)

Reimagining Mission

Journey of Faith began a process of discernment to grow in its mission of connecting with all: What would “the Church” look like if a group of faith communities set aside their personal desires for the sake of the gospel?

Could we effectively work with people we would not have chosen on our own? How do we live out, as Pastor Alex McCauslin notes, the “challenging aspect of the church’s call to connection” and seeing Christ in all?

Reimagining mission involves seeing our community as an extension of a congregation. A mission field can include all the people God calls to serve - even connecting with people who may never set foot in a church building. The effort to strive for unity, one body in Christ in the midst of diversity, is a call of the gospel and it can be scary.

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Our Project

Mrs. Taylor, a widow with children living out of state, has not spoken to anyone in 5 weeks. Mr. Jackson still lives in his 1940s boyhood home. He is not a member of the neighborhood church, but a church volunteer stops by every week to visit with him.

This is the new frontier on aging. We hope to be part of a movement aiming to reduce the isolation and loneliness of seniors. Our project builds coalitions to prevent a point of crisis and a move toward solutions that will have a lasting impact. We are connecting with community members, other faith communities and agencies to establish a network of resources to support seniors.

We are recruiting individuals we are calling Community Champions, who will be trained to build better links between seniors in their own churches, older neighbors living near the church, and the resources available in the area. Individuals we are calling Friendly Visitors will visit with one or more seniors every week to support their physical, spiritual and emotional well-being.

Rebuilding Our Foundation

At home, we have leaned into our work with others, to learn about a culture of generosity and collaboration. At SENT seminar, we were moved by the stories from others about God’s calling on their ministry. That has shaped our work too. NBA staff talked about the basics of leading and operating care and service nonprofits. More importantly, they approached the process of innovation and transformation – as ministry itself.

Nowadays, people are leaving religion. It is not just the problem of declining churches, but a sadness for the cause of Christ in today’s world. On a journey of renewal, the most important question is not: “Are we there yet?”; the question to ask is: “What foundation are we building our new thing on?” The sacrament of the altar is called forth from that question. It is what we think NBA understands and ministers to best.

So, first things, first.

Before they started to build the walls of protection around the city ... They rebuilt the altar so they could worship God ...

We're grateful for the opportunity to participate in the week of exploring, in practical and spiritual ways, the kind of foundation to build any new thing on. NBA’s SENT nbacares.org
Journey of Faith Christian Church (DOC): We believe the Church can emerge again as a powerful force for change, be a reconciling voice, build bridges across differences, and find common ground to solve social problems. In a beloved community, everyone can be unafraid of scarcity. We can rejoice in sharing our abundance. And, God’s merciful love is extended to everyone. At its heart, faith can be both a principle of action and a powerful force for good. Our goals are to: 1) Expand the capacity of small churches, operating in the same ministry areas, to share resources, broaden outreach and access to their facilities for community use. 2) Understand the best entry points for churches to engage social services systems to help address the underlying causes of complex social problems. The goal is to move from fighting fires to “fireproofing” to prevent, mitigate or deliver sustainable solutions. 3) Collaborate with marginalized community members, who are closest to the issues, to lead planning, problem-solving and decision-making activities with other stakeholders for sustainable change. This effort can be a helpful component for expanding a community’s capacity.

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From Idea to Reality
Jose Martinez
The StoryWagen, Kansas City, MO
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, The StoryWagen, aims to start a conversation on methods of moral injury intervention by using digital storytelling and a mobile recording studio (in a Volkswagen bus) to collect stories of people who are suffering from moral injury.

My name is Jose Martinez from Kansas City, MO and I participated in the SENT Seminar that was conducted by the National Benevolent Association. I am a bi-vocational church planter and a chaplain. This is important because my experience as both a chaplain and church planter led me to come to the NBA’s SENT seminar. These two seemingly different ministries collide in my project called The StoryWagen. As a church planter, I have an entrepreneurial streak to start innovative ways to express the Christian faith. As a chaplain in both the military and at a hospital, I walk with people of all faiths in their joys and pains, wherever they are in their life’s journey.

Throughout my ministry, I have been heavily involved with the study of moral injury. What is moral injury, you might ask? In short, it is an injury to one’s psyche when one violates, corroborates, or could not prevent acts that transgress their own moral and ethical values. Moral injury is a newer field of study and there are symptoms similar to those experienced in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. This field of study grew due to many veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom that were experiencing PTSD but were dealing with symptoms that were beyond the scope of evidence-based treatments such as prolonged exposure therapy and cognitive processing therapy.

Therefore a dimensional approach, versus a categorical approach, must be taken when intervening with people suffering from moral injury. Moral injury is not included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition (DSM-V) like post-traumatic
stress disorder, however many researchers understand that moral injury quite often accompanies PTSD latently. While treatments for PTSD focus on emotions such as fear, despair, and horror; moral injury interventions focus on emotions such as guilt, shame, and sorrow.

The goal of The StoryWagen is to assist faith communities in bringing awareness and intervening in moral injury within their neighborhoods because moral injury affects everyone. To achieve this goal, we will develop resources that help these communities understand moral injury through digital storytelling. Additionally, we will develop interventions that faith communities can employ that will help their neighbors address moral injury. You may be asking why faith communities? As mentioned before, moral injury is a dimensional issue. The dimension that moral injury affects is the spiritual dimension. That is why The StoryWagen is focusing on educating faith communities to help in this matter, to help in the work of soul repair. This work is important because even though moral injury is not a mental health issue, it does affect mental health.

Now great, there is this big idea but how do we go from a big idea to a successful reality? This is where the SENT seminar and the NBA come into the picture. I was provided with the necessary foundations and support to start this endeavor. Although I have plenty of experience and training with planting a church, there are some differences between planting a church and starting a nonprofit. It was the SENT Seminar that showed me what areas are a little different from church planting. Furthermore, one of the most important things I gained from the seminar was the knowledge that I am not on this journey alone. I was able to create friendships with colleagues from various parts of not only the continental United States but also from Canada and Puerto Rico. If you are a wanting to start an innovative endeavor in the nonprofit world but do not know where to start, I suggest looking into the SENT seminar with the NBA. The experience will enrich you not only professionally but also personally.

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Supported and Empowered
Katrina Marsh
Heal to Wholeness, Hercules, CA
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, Heal to Wholeness, in Hercules, California, involves workshops, seminar series, and work groups to empower predominantly African-American congregations and communities to have hard conversations around socially conscious and justice realities of living in community.

I have attended many seminars, for various reasons, along my journey. However, I have never encountered one that was so well-organized with the participants truly in mind. The SENT Seminar had everything thought of before we ever arrived; it was obvious throughout. Because they had taken steps ahead of our arrival, it gave us space to be fully present with what the seminar was offering. I was able to focus on my proposed project, evaluate it with others, after sessions with myself, and have a place to bring up any questions that may have arisen. Every part of the seminar gave me new things that I had not thought of before to consider. One of the biggest gifts that the seminar gave was the option to shift my project’s original idea, or to abandon it altogether. As we had the workshops and some ideas expanded as others fizzled, I was a little anxiety-ridden that although I had identified changes or deletions that needed to be made, I wouldn’t have the space to make them. But the SENT team made it very clear that reaching this space was not only understandable, it was acceptable. This gave my project more space to breathe on its own and guide me into what is really possible moving forward. I came away feeling supported in my process of conceptualizing and birthing a project that could truly help others. Originally, I thought to carry out my project’s mission alone, but the seminar showed me options of how to partner to

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have a greater offering and make a larger impact. I left empowered; not just by the sessions themselves, but also with the connection to other leaders that were present. There was no fear that someone would attempt to take anyone else’s idea and make it their own, but only willing openness and support to offer whatever resource one might know or have that could help another. This had not been my previous experiences with other entrepreneurial things, and it was beautiful! Everyone was truly invested in improving the lives of others, even if it meant they or their program might not be the one to reach the individual; they seemed willing to make a referral if that was what needed to be done. It was a complete, wholesome and rejuvenating experience! I look forward to my next steps. They’re not the exact steps I thought would be (originally), but they are definitely steps in the right direction...forward. Thank you SENT Seminar for helping me see beyond where I was and thought I was going (my limited vision), to offering me new insight into where I am and can truly go...successfully.

Heal to Wholeness will convene workshops, seminar series, and work groups to give (self) permission to predominantly African-American congregations and communities to empower them to have hard conversations around aging, sexuality, sexual orientation, grief and loss, ableism/disabilities/special needs, suicide, mental illness, contraceptives, HIV/AIDS and STDs, homelessness, culture and genealogy, commonalities of faith traditions, and other socially conscious and justice realities of continual living and being in community, that foster unity and a heart for humanity.

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Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, Broken, Mended And Restored (BMAR), in Ontario, Canada, addresses brokenness caused by family abuse, spiritual abuse, physical and emotional abuse.

Nine years ago, along with a group of 10 people, I organized Lisa Tunstall Ministries (changed to Broken, Mended And Restored, Inc. in 2015). Armed with a vision for helping domestic abuse victims, great determination, a few resources and lots of prayer, we were able to sponsor transforming events such as conferences, seminars, the Healing Path small group ministry, and community praise and worship events in public spaces (i.e. restaurants, community rooms, etc.). Throughout that time the vision expanded to addressing family, relationship, emotional, physical and spiritual abuse in the Christian community. However, in 2017 we realized that the time had come for BMAR to go to the next level of having a greater impact in the faith community. Thanks to the outreach effort of NBA Incubate Associate, Larry J. Morris III, we were made aware of NBA Incubate Initiative and SENT seminar. Through Larry’s efforts, I soon connected with Rev. Ayanna Watkins, who encouraged us to attend the SENT seminar.

I attended the 2018 SENT Seminar with BMAR Board member, Rev. Wehnona Barnett. Our experience at SENT seminar was a power boost that defies description. Every topic covered seemed customized to meet our need for strengthening our organizational infrastructure and equipping our organization to bring the vision into full fruition. The presentations on self-care for social entrepreneurs, Facebook for

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social enterprises, the leadership coaching, fundraising and four foundations of a nonprofit ministry were particularly helpful to us. Actually, all of the SENT seminar modules helped fill in the gaps of the informational void I felt existed prior to attending SENT. The small group coaching meeting with Geetha Sant, JD, gave us direction in what we needed to do regarding the legal aspects of our nonprofit. It was comforting to know that we would have access to the informational resources on NBA’s website, as well as limited consultations with the SENT seminar presenters for the next 12 months. The fellowship with other Disciples social entrepreneurs from around the country was rich and encouraging. Hearing their experiences and exchanging ideas and information was priceless. It helped us to feel connected with others who dare to launch out into the deep in pursuit of fulfilling a vision that can be a part of helping to heal a fragmented world.

Broken, Mended And Restored (BMAR) is a faith-based non-profit organization that addresses brokenness caused by family abuse, spiritual abuse, physical and emotional abuse. Programs are aligned with the 5-Ministry Pathways: Annual BMAR Conference (for men, women and young adults), The Healing Path (a bi-weekly small group biblically based study), Leadership seminars (for clergy and church leaders), BMAR Teen Forum (healthy relationships), AWE (Amazing Worship Experience) in different locations (community rooms, restaurant meeting rooms, etc.)

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I Was Hungry, You Gave Me Something To Eat
Melissa Peralez
Glowing Doves, San Benito, TX
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, **Glowing Doves**, aims to feed the community spiritually, mentally, and physically by teaching them to grow and cook healthy fruits and veggies and by providing counseling to those in need.

Glowing Doves was developed with the thought of feeding the hungry. I was given the inspiration while I was on vacation with my family. While having lunch at a place recommended to us, I noticed a man pacing back and forth outside and he looked hungry. I decided to purchase him a meal, as I gave it to him I noticed the smile on his face was big and the happiness he had was glowing. My passion in life has always been to feed the hungry, and with a culinary arts degree, why not give back?! The joy and happiness of those who aren't able to provide for themselves, for one reason or another, is the reason I want to provide these services. Healing of a community can bring people back to the feet of Jesus.

A community that has faith in Jesus is one that is hard to defeat. One of my main inspirations is Matthew 25:35 "for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.” I truly believe that the hungry are angels of God, and sometimes Jesus himself, and no one will ever know for sure; so I try to help every person I can.

The SENT seminar was a wonderful experience for me. I was given a lot of resources and I was able to meet many unique and interesting people. It gave me an opportunity to refocus my attention fully on my program, rather than my attention being shared with my secular job. My main goal is to make this program my main focus and only focus; I want to make it my career. I desire to be able to focus mainly on my spiritual life and my nonprofit organization, and not have to work a secular job.
Although my program offers a spiritual aspect, my main focus is healing and nurturing families. By offering resources that boost healing, as well as other resources, the spiritual aspect will fall into place. Not many people feel worthy of being spiritual when they are broken or in need; whether it is financially or health wise, people feel that they need to fix the outside before they can fix the inside, or they need the strength that the resources provide to be able to focus on the spiritual. I also feel that, sadly, people have been hurt by the church, so they do not want to be involved in the spiritual aspect of anything. By providing physical and emotional healing, you open the door to spiritual healing as well. My goal in life is to try to feed the world, and I am starting in Raymondville, Texas, where there is a lot of need with the closing of the Wal-Mart and part of the prison being closed, which has caused a big portion of the people in Raymondville to be unemployed. For Hispanics, healthy eating is not the norm, which is why I want to teach them and myself that eating healthy is not only possible and delicious, but also affordable and easier to make than people think.

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Adding Aroma To Your Dreams

Nestor Gomez
Project 751, Aurora, CO
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. **Project 751**, will develop resources for personal and community development for an individual or collective over a 7-year period, assessing progress overtime.

A cup of café…and a delicious pastry…with people that you don’t know but share common interests- this was the first thing that caught my attention at SENT Seminar. A bunch of people who were Disciples, coming from different states and places, including La Isla del Encanto, Puerto Rico, met at Union Avenue Christian Church in Saint Louis, Missouri. One place, one faith, many dreams!

My secret to embarking on this creative journey? Sincerely, there are no secrets or recipes, just a deep desire to serve God and see my dreams come true. What I experienced in those three days was a creative journey.

After welcoming us to the event, Angela Whitenhill, the first speaker, reminded us about the tension that we face between serving others with compassion and the demanding task that this work implies in *lo cotidiano* (everyday). And it is true! I learned that I have to take care of myself every day, maintain a healthy lifestyle, and be more self-aware as I navigate how best to live and serve in community. That evening I went to the hotel gym.

Rev. Greg Turk spoke about building a vision that is beyond what we are living in the present. To build this vision, he illustrated our dreams as if we were visualizing the last scene of a movie. What do I see? What is happening? Who is with me there? Visualizing my dream is powerful. It helps me set specific goals and keeps me motivated.
These are just two examples of what I learned at SENT seminar. But I have to say that the experience of sharing with people and hearing their stories and projects was amazing. This gives me hope in believing that there are still people who love God deeply and want to change the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

At the seminar, I felt like I could add aroma to my dreams and that I could contribute to building, with my talents and skills, “wholeness in a fragmented world.”

Project 751 is focused on 7 years (goal years 1, 3, 5, and 7), in 5 areas of development (social relationships, professionalism, economic growth, health/recreation, and spirituality), and 1 group (individual or collective). Basically, the project will develop resources for personal and community development, assessing progress in the five areas above, in the goal years mentioned.

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Stepping Into New Territory
Owen Chandler
Saguaro Community Kitchen/ the Sol Food Initiatives, Tucson, AZ
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, Saguaro Community Kitchen/ the Sol Food Initiative is East Tucson’s first and only community kitchen. The goal of this effort is to broker community partnerships and programs located within the community kitchen.

Saguaro Christian Church is a faith community where love meets life and creates relationship. Saguaro is a movement where generations meet and change the future. Saguaro is an idea where art meets a holy longing and creates the unimaginable. Saguaro is a mission where hope meets the community and acts with courage. This is our ethos. This guides our steps, our hands, our feet, as we seek to meet Christ in ministry among God’s people. Out of this motivation for being church we decided to feed the multitudes. Saguaro Christian Church is building East Tucson’s first and only community kitchen.

We see this community kitchen as a tool to eliminate food insecurity within the surrounding neighborhoods. It can bridge a gap within the plethora of services available in other parts of the city by fostering interagency relationships and cooperation. In essence, the kitchen creates a force multiplier. We build a space and an opportunity for Tucson nonprofits and religious communities to partner, to innovate, and to dream.

To assist, Saguaro formed “the Sol Food Initiatives”. This 501(c)3’s purpose is structured as a human-centered approach to nonprofit organization. We see the Sol Food Initiatives operating in these ways:

1. Creating a collective impact between nonprofits

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2. Launching pilot initiatives to explore new approaches at eliminating food insecurity through food sovereignty

3. Managing the social enterprise portfolio of the community kitchen.

Beginning summer of 2019, Saguaro Christian Church, Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona’s Caridad Community Kitchen, and the Sol Food Initiatives are creating our first initiative: the Great Plate, a biweekly seven-hour initiative, seeking to eliminate food insecurity and promote food sovereignty. The program includes three months onsite and enrollment in a community supported agricultural project for six months. The initiative is fourfold: a free lunch with professional instruction on preparation, engagement with community partners, reprieve from the heat with peers, and volunteers trained to foster relationships.

This is all new territory for Saguaro Christian Church. There is great hope for the impact of these initiatives, but there is also some anxiety in wading into the work and world of the Tucson nonprofit scene and trying to create partnerships of mutuality. In this regard, NBA’s SENT seminar was a blessing. Saguaro was able to send a leadership team to ask questions, dream, make changes, and learn new terminology, but most importantly to be affirmed that we are doing God’s work and...that we aren’t that far off the mark in the middle of all this dreaming.

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When Charity Does Not Provide Justice
Sophia Jackson
Phoenix Outreach, Berkeley, CA
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. This project, Phoenix Outreach, seeks to provide an environment where justice involved individuals can become equipped to create stability in their lives and the lives of family.

As I reflect on my experience at the SENT seminar hosted by the National Benevolent Association, the images captured by the stained glass window below helped me formulate a greater understanding of the ministry I came here to learn how to build. As I listened to what all of the partners and participants said, it suddenly became clear that the reason we are called into the ministry of the mission of God in diverse ways is so that there will always be one faction of people coming together and finding strength in each other's vision.

This work of art sits at a crossroads; it sits at the corner of a quite visible divide of the disparity of “to have” or “have not”. It sits in the shadow of a mindset of a fabricated illusion of superiority. While its imagery suggests a welcome, the reality of “just across the street” is a stark contrast to the comfort that this picture exudes. We have gathered here because we are a people who are willing to rise against its own system in order to ensure that the command to set people free always remains in operation.

While here, I learned that at the end of the day, if my charity towards those marginalized by systems of injustice does not end with their voices being raised in advocacy for themselves to effect change in the policies which marginalize them, then my charity, while good, is not providing justice. The SENT seminar gave me a deeper and clearer understanding of how Phoenix Outreach can make a positive impact toward change in communities by providing an environment for the justice
involved individual re-entering community to become empowered by envisioning new life through the lens of their needs, and the tools they feel they need in order to challenge the institutional status quo of oppression. This was eye-opening for me, in that this very insight led me to think of Jesus and how He in his time tried to get the people to see that the institution of religious rules or the culture of church was susceptible to becoming an Empire; therefore, even the brick and mortar of the Church must come to realize that service can also take place when policies and powers change. When policies and powers change, the cry of the people resounds and empowerment begins.

In coming here to the SENT Seminar, I learned that I had taken the first step of my next step toward developing an effective ministry; the first step toward the next step of building confidence for myself and becoming a part of a network of people seeking to find sustainable ways for change and growth to occur. And finally, the personal realization that being called into ministry involves being committed to making a difference and meeting the needs of my community by giving in such a fashion that the end result, which is justice, is not hindered or thwarted.

Phoenix Outreach Ministries seeks to provide an environment where justice involved individuals can become equipped to create stability in their lives and the lives of family. This will be accomplished through educational classes, structured practices of Restorative Justice Models, guided interaction, and spiritual recovery practices. Recognizing each individual’s dignity and uniqueness- we believe that by acknowledging every individual’s innate power, this program can create practices and community agreements that bind/weave individuals and communities in different social contexts to have common language/reference points in order to choose to live intentionally and purposefully so that collective liberation can be experienced for all people.

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A Space To Nurture Dreams To Reality
Tana Roseboro
Healing the WOMBman, Hercules, CA
2018 SENT Seminar Participant

Last September, the NBA Incubate Initiative welcomed its largest SENT Seminar cohort yet! The annual four-day training opportunity equips Disciples social entrepreneurs of faith for leadership and change as they nurture emerging health and social service ministries. Healing the WOMBman will provide face-to-face talks and workshops to bring women of color together to discuss how to heal our wombs (the places where all life, love, authenticity, and creativity arise) spiritually and mentally in community.

Have you ever signed yourself up for something when you are not quite sure what it is all about? Well, that is how I felt about accepting the invitation to participate in the 2018 SENT Seminar. It all sounded pretty good, but I wondered if any group could really be interested in what I have only been thinking about doing. Who would want to listen to an idea about healing the (physical and spiritual) womb of women to create a space of healing for communities? Other than my close circle of friends and family, who would take me seriously? The National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is the group that really wanted to hear and learn about what was on my heart and bouncing around in my brain. The plans they had for my idea were more than I could have ever expected or even thought about to ask for help with. The NBA set me up to launch my dream; with my trajectory set toward success.

Prior to my arrival in St. Louis, I became excited while perusing the list of what was going to be offered. There was going to be coaching on how to navigate social media and information around the laws of the nonprofit world. There was plenty of leadership coaching and fundraising 101 provided as well. During the seminar, I was reminded to actively make self-care a priority because burnout is real. There was ample opportunity to share with members of my cohort about their social visions and active work. I was pleased to experience the well thought out workshops and

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activities that were designed to gift me with as much information as possible to pull off Healing the WOMBman: Wisdom of Matriarchs Before. Towards the end of the seminar, I was in a state of awe; I felt like I just might be able to pull this heart dream off! With the help of the National Benevolent Association, a space of healing energy for women can be provided. A place where women of color can come together to reclaim and share their ancestral wisdom can be a reality. The SENT seminar did for me what Healing the WOMBman will do for other women: open a space to nurture dreams to reality. It was wonderful to be in a space where there were other dreamers, social entrepreneurs, and people who just want to help other people be their very best. I left St. Louis knowing that I need to move beyond my headspace and to get to work on the vision God has given me.

Healing the WOMBman will provide face-to-face talks and workshops to bring women of color together to discuss how to heal our wombs (the places where all life, love, authenticity, and creativity arise), spiritually and mentally in community. I will utilize the concepts of 'Croning', 'Mother Wit' and 'Ancestral Methodologies - including oral healing by telling, retelling and giving voice to'. This will be open to anyone woman-identified, from any ethnicity, but with a focus on African and African American women of color wisdom and experiences.

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