

A HALF CENTURY OF DREAMS AND ACHIEVEMENT

In January, the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center will celebrate its 47th birthday, capping nearly a half-century of struggle throughout the Mississippi Delta to combat the ravages of poverty, outmigration, climate change and economic travail that attacked the Middle South. Thanks to the vision and leadership of those who formed BGACDC and kept it going and innovating, the community centered at Marvell succeeded against those odds better than most others across the region.



But the approaching half-century mark is not only a good time for reflection and thankfulness, but time for planning and new inspiration. The social and economic forces that beset the rural South, and notably Arkansas, are not going away.

BGACDC's vision of a healthy, safe and educated community was built on the ideas of networking, partnering and collaboration. Through those ideas, BGACDC produced affordable and decent housing for the elderly and disabled, accessible and affordable health care with the help of the national health plan derided at the time as "Obamacare," recreational facilities to meet the needs of low-to-moderate-income residents, an educational system that struggled mightily to meet the needs of all children and prepare them to compete with children in prosperous regions of the nation and the world, early childcare programs to meet the needs of all preschool kids regardless of their family incomes or other situations; a community that provides living wages, and a community that respects differences and embraces creativity.



We are convinced that BGACDC needs to and can accomplish much more in the coming years when, obviously, we will face new challenges as well as the old ones. It will take more resources than ever. We hope that everyone who has benefited from BGACDC's efforts, either directly or indirectly, will contemplate how they might contribute to that vision, now and in the future.