

# Buffalo Basics

## Profile



### The Inspiration

For years, Buffalo, NY has faced challenges stemming from their dwindling population. Houses that are occupied are not well kept, causing neighborhood property values to fall. The mayor of Buffalo has reacted to the vacancies and dishevelled homes by proposing a major demolition of 5,000 houses.



### The Idea

Megan, Whitney, Erin, and Adam, residents of Buffalo, could not stand the idea of 5,000 homes being dumped into a landfill. The friends knew that many homes could be saved, if only the homeowners were educated on home renovation.

### The Venture

In February 2009, the group launched Buffalo Basics, hoping to emphasize the importance of going 'back to the basics'. Through massive fundraising, the Team purchased a foreclosed home in one of Buffalo's poorest neighborhoods. Buffalo Basics uses the home as a "how-to" model to teach residents about home repair, garden creation, and community building. The upstairs is rented out, providing the Team with a sustainable way to meet the cost of classes and building supplies.

### The Impact

Buffalo Basics has had a tremendous impact in their community. Through interactive classes, many local residents have been educated on home renovation and beautification.