



2247 N 17 Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53205  
sharonfosteradams@gmail.com  
414.943-2247

## **Sharon Adams**

Sharon Adams believes deeply in the transformative power of collective action. When she and her husband Larry found an old Milwaukee neighborhood unsightly, they did not move away, they moved to make the changes. They founded Walnut Way Conservation Corporation, a community development corporation.

She has been a stimulus behind the changes witnessed in a 110-block area in central Milwaukee. The couple founded Walnut Way Conservation Corporation in 2000 to create and sustain economically diverse neighborhoods. Sharon fostered initiatives to engage neighbors; document the oral traditions of elders; reduce crime; introduce storm water management; demonstrate healthy food production, offer educational and recreational opportunities for youth. Revitalization initiatives resulted in \$30 million in housing investment and more than \$125 million in commercial projects in the 53205 and 53206 Zip codes. Leading efforts for environmental health, Walnut Way has grown into a neighborhood campus where neighbors, children and other transformative spirits engage in collaborative efforts to foster prosperity. Adams helped launch the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Health Alliance and Lindsay Heights Commercial Corridors Committee, involving 40 medical, academic, government, business and resident partners.

Sharon Adams brings together resources and residents, business owners, nonprofits and a range of shareholders to improve equity, opportunity and cooperation within these neighborhoods. She is the recipient of several awards including a Purpose Prize Fellowship, the Frank Kirkpatrick Award from Greater Milwaukee Foundation, People's Choice award from Local Initiative Support Corporation and the Business Journal Women of Influence.

In 2015, Sharon retired from Walnut Way. She and her husband Larry formed HN Development to inspire real estate development in historically disinvested neighborhoods for the common good. Their current project is the Adams Garden Park, a real estate redevelopment project to house environmental groups and