



THE PINK HOUSE

Exactly, what is it?

Is it a Learning Center OR is it a Neighborhood Resource Center?

Do you remember this question from television – “It’s a bird, It’s a plane. No, it’s Superman!” What do you know about the PINK HOUSE located at 1551 Mulberry Street in the Ardmore Sherwood Forest Neighborhood? Is it a Learning Center, an after school program, a summer camp, or a Neighborhood Resource Center? It is all of these and more.

Rev. Christian King, the founder and Director of the PINK HOUSE often refers to a certain event as her ‘baptism’ – an emersion into and awareness of the reading challenge that confronted the youth of her bible study class. Reading for Reverend Christian King was as natural as breathing, so with her natural love and concern for others she could not allow herself to stand by doing nothing to address the situation. With brave determination and the meager personal funds of her husband Kelvin and herself, she took on the daunting challenge that has resulted in a learning center/Neighborhood resource Center dedicated to teaching the fundamentals of reading and reading comprehension with an emphasis on community service. From a ‘baptism’ The **P.I.N.K. H.O.U.S.E.** (**P**eople **I**nnovating **N**ew **K**inships thru **H**elping **O**thers **U**plift **S**ervices and **E**ducation) was born – the year was 1997.

Rev. King and her husband began the Herculean task of renovating a dilapidated building in the neighborhood. When funds and faith ran low, she only had to remember those kids who faced almost insurmountable odds against success – single parents most often holding down two jobs leaving aging grandparents to provide after school care.

The Pink House opened its doors officially in January 1999. The program has proven itself by an overwhelming success record. Popular with its students and volunteers which include a well-trained cadre of teenage volunteers – standardized school tests are measurably higher among the Pink House students. One of its student volunteers has received national recognition for community service and is currently enrolled in Benedict College after having earned several well-deserved scholarships

The Pink House has helped to transform lives as it provides a safe, enjoyable, fun after-school learning environment during the school year. It continues its mission with a full day program during the summer. The need for this facility cannot be over-stated as a haven from the hustle and struggle of the streets, of teen drug dealing, early pregnancy, and violent crimes.