

SOMERVILLE · FAYETTE COUNTY · TENNESSEE

A Stronger Community Is Good Business

For Community Leaders & Business Owners

Rooted in healing. Rising in power. Building together.



WHY WE'RE HERE

When the neighborhood thrives, everyone's investment grows.

A practical, community-owned strategy for a stronger Fayette County.



WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Our vision for the neighborhood

RDE Associates advances community empowerment and self-sufficiency in Somerville's underserved neighborhoods through three coordinated programs — building healthier residents, capable leaders, and a stronger local economy.

*Community ownership is
what makes impact last.*

And partnership is what makes it possible.



Somerville · Fayette County, Tennessee

Somerville and Fayette County face real gaps in food access, civic capacity, and educational opportunity. Closing them strengthens the workforce, the customer base, and the civic fabric we all depend on.

Food-insecure households and rising health costs

Untapped local leadership and talent

Opportunity for local hiring and revitalization



Gardening for Healing

Food, health, and healing from the ground up.

What we do

- Community gardens on vacant lots grow fresh food for families and pantries
- Hands-on workshops in nutrition, cooking, and sustainable growing
- Calm, green space that restores the body, mind, and spirit
- Elders pass gardening wisdom and culture to the young
- Real job skills in horticulture and the growing “green” trades



Image B — community garden with families

For Community Leaders & Business Owners: Food access plus workforce skills in horticulture and green trades.



Civil Rights Empowerment

Know your rights. Find your voice. Take your seat.

What we do

- Nonpartisan civic and voter education — how change really happens
- Civil-rights history and “know-your-rights” basics
- Leadership development for emerging community leaders
- Mentorship that pairs seasoned leaders with rising ones
- Organizing neighbors around the issues they care about



Image C — neighbors at a civic / leadership workshop

For Community Leaders & Business Owners: Civic capacity and a leadership pipeline for the community (nonpartisan).



Community Building

Neighbors into a network. A neighborhood into a home.

What we do

- Learning hubs with tutoring, literacy, and enrichment (Rosenwald-inspired)
- Welcoming gathering spaces for meetings, events, and support
- Celebration of local culture, history, and story
- A community-ownership model — residents help lead and sustain the work



Image D — a learning hub or community gathering

For Community Leaders & Business Owners:

Education and gathering spaces on a proven community-ownership model.

This only works if we build it together

Modeled on the Rosenwald matching principle: outside support is multiplied by local investment and ownership. Your partnership is the match that unlocks community effort.



Sponsor

Fund a program or garden site.



Provide

Space, goods, or services.



Hire & mentor

Open doors for graduates.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Outcomes we're driving toward:



Fresh food within reach

Every family with access to fresh, healthy food.



New local leaders

A rising generation of confident community leaders.



Students thriving

Learning hubs where students grow and succeed.



Owned by the community

Neighbors who lead, sustain, and own the work.

Where you come in

- Sponsor a program or garden site
- Provide in-kind goods, space, or services
- Hire or mentor program graduates
- Join an advisory board or matching campaign



Image F — Business/community leaders touring a program site

CALL TO ACTION

Partner with us

1

Become a sponsor or matching partner

2

Offer in-kind support or space

3

Open a hiring or mentorship pipeline

Invest where you live. Watch it grow.

A stronger community is good business.

Thank you.

Resource Development Empowerment Associates

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Image G — a hopeful image of the community