



## SHARON FRANCIS

*Director, MiraCit Development Corporation, Inc.*

It's not easy being green. Sharon Francis should know. After all, helping to organize and develop Columbus' first 'green' community, Green View Estates, was no easy task.

Sharon works with MiraCit Development Corporation to redevelop the Mock Road community. Since MiraCit's inception in 1993, more than \$4.7 million in grants and contributions have been garnered to leverage over \$25 million in housing development projects.

Today, over 200 homes have been developed, in addition to a park, a charter school, a preschool, a daycare, a retirement center, and a retail center.

Sharon views her role as an advocate for the community's residents. Her activities have included board membership on the Columbus Compact, the North Central Area Commission, and the Ohio Community Development Corporation (CDC) Association. She currently serves on the Columbus and Franklin County Housing Advisory Board and the FCI, Too Childcare Center Board. Also, she and husband, Darrell, are the owners of Sentinel Alarm Company.

Spiritual in nature, Sharon is guided by her faith, as well as by her love of music. At the age of three, she began playing the piano and singing in her grandfather's church. Directing choirs since age 9, she has recorded seven gospel albums, some of which have made *Billboard's* Top 100 list. She attended Boston University, majoring in engineering and business; and in 1993, she received her Doctorate in music.

Her community involvement began while she was serving as Minister of Music and Secretary for Living Faith Apostolic Church. It was from the vision of the church, and leadership of its pastor, Bishop Edgar Posey, that MiraCit was formed and Sharon was encouraged to begin her quest into the arena of community development.

The vision continues to unfold 15 years later, and it is coming up roses for Sharon.