

# Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency Recycling Center



Over the past decade, the community of rural Lancaster, Ohio, has grown in population and size. The Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency (LFCAA) Recycling Center strived to provide the community with resources for recycling. As the community grew, the Recycling Center continued to serve in its existing facility, but soon reached capacity.

The directors of the Recycling Center dreamed of expanding their facility to better meet the needs of their community. In order to serve more people, the facility would need more square-footage and more user-friendly components, such as a drive-through drop off for recycled goods. Finance Fund had helped LFCAA with several community development projects in the past, and they knew that Finance Fund could help make this new dream a reality.

Finance Fund joined forces with LFCAA for the project, and now the expanded facility accommodates the growing recycling needs of the community and serves as a model for green living. The building was constructed using eco-friendly building techniques and is heated with recycled oil. It was designed to maximize efficiency and the quality of employees' and visitors' experience.

The Recycling Center means something different for everyone in Lancaster. For individuals who use its services, it is a valuable resource where they can make green decisions and know they are doing their part to make a difference, no matter how small. For others, the center is a source of income as they receive payment for recyclable items. The center also provides many members of the community with jobs that they might not have found elsewhere.

The Recycling Center provides educational programs and resources that teach the next generation of leaders and recyclers practical ways to help the environment. The center puts a special emphasis on education through guided tours of the facility for local schools and hosting programs that teach about recycling, green living and giving back to the community.

#### **Finance Fund Provided:**

- A grant for construction and equipment

More than just creating a useful recycling center for the community, this project created 8 full-time jobs and provided 11,989 square feet of space for the recycling facility. The recycling center has seen a 34% increase in total amount of service provided to customers and a 67% increase in revenue generated with the new facility.

