

# NOAH Faith Community



Crestline, Ohio's 5,000 residents have built a thriving business and industrial community within this small railroad town. In recent years, Crestline's public spaces have experienced a revitalization through a number of successful publicly-funded projects.

This spirit of revitalization inspired Crestline resident Su Rowles, who had a vision of forming a nonprofit organization named NOAH to build a senior living center. 14 percent of Crestline's population is 65 or older, and affordable, supportive housing for older residents was scarce. While conducting research on the Internet, Su came across Finance Fund's Web site. She contacted Finance Fund and explained her vision for a senior center.

Finance Fund was able to counsel Su in many areas, walking her through the steps to become a 501c3 organization, and recommending a training program at the Ohio CDC Association. NOAH was born.

Finance Fund's experienced staff of Program Officers worked closely with Su to help her complete an application for funding; Su was thrilled to learn that she had secured a grant to help with the planning process for her senior center. Finance Fund also accompanied Su on a site visit to a senior center in Delaware, Ohio, which she decided to use as a model for her center.

NOAH's project, Faith Community, will provide much needed affordable housing to Crestline's senior citizen population. The affordable housing units will target residents 55 and older and will be affordable to those earning 35 to 60 percent of the area median gross income. Each unit will feature a range, refrigerator, disposal, dishwasher, utility room, washer/dryer hook-ups, storage space and a one-car garage. Amenities will include a garden area, on-site management and a community room.

With the center scheduled to open in Summer 2008, Su's vision is nearly complete and NOAH's mission a success. Su continues to set high standards for what she wants and pursues those standards relentlessly.

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

- A \$12,000 grant to help with predevelopment activities including architects, engineers, and planning services
- Project counsel and application assistance

The senior housing project will provide 41 units of affordable rental housing for senior citizens and support two to three full-time jobs.

