

Connections
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Finance Fund

a statewide nonprofit financial intermediary

As Autism Awareness Month Closes, We Fund Bittersweet Farms

April is Autism Awareness Month, and what better time to highlight a recent **PreDevelopment Grant recipient, Bittersweet Farms.**

Serving autistic adults and adolescents on eighty acres in rural Northwest Ohio, Bittersweet Farms was the first of its kind in the United States. Modeled after Somerset Court in England, **their mission is to build a farmstead in the country to focus on serving persons with autism.** This farm setting offers rich, varied and abundant opportunities for self-paced, distraction-free activities for their autistic participants.

This new construction project consists of campus-style apartments including three one-story buildings with six one-bedroom apartments, each with a private kitchen and bath.

This project will benefit low and very-low income adults with autism by providing **affordable and accessible housing** to facilitate independence; incomes will be at or below 50% of AMGI and residents will not pay more than 30% of their income in rental payments. Additionally, **supportive services** will be provided to the residents much like assisted living facilities for the elderly as well as training programs (i.e. farming, grounds keeping, computer skills, woodworking, etc.).

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Save-the-Date

Finance Fund's Annual Reception is being held May 12, 2011 at the Lincoln Theater.

Staff Growth Mirrors Organization Growth »

As we continue to expand our business and build our organization, we are constantly implementing many constructive changes within Finance Fund.

During the past two years, we have restructured our organization to better focus on our operations and have greater accountability for our business. These changes, along with the hard work of our employees, allowed us to achieve our financial goals and meet both our customer commitments and internal business needs.

That said, we are excited to share the news of three new Finance Fund employees.

Douglas Hoover, Compliance Manager
Danielle Carter, Documents Manager
Makeba Wilson, Document Scanner

ByCar Program Continues to Move Ohioans»

One of the smaller programs Finance Fund has been running for the last two years is going strong and providing a huge impact to Ohioans in need of reliable transportation. **ByCar (Cars for Jobs and Diplomas)** is a program managed through local Community Action Agencies.

Launched in 2009, ByCar provides a matching grant or a loan guarantee to low-income individuals to obtain or retain employment and/or education with the purchase of a vehicle.

By the end of 2010, this program had leveraged \$341,790 on an investment of \$195,197 for 74 vehicles.

Since the start of 2011 we have helped put 28 cars in the hands of low-income individuals across the state.

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