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## **Finance Fund Honors Urban Health Care and Healthy Food Initiatives**

COLUMBUS, OH – Organizations working to improve access to health care facilities and healthy foods in Ohio’s undeserved communities earned top awards from Finance Fund, a statewide nonprofit financial intermediary.

Finance Fund awarded its Community Champion Award to Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. (BBC) for revitalizing an urban Cleveland neighborhood with innovative housing, retail, employment and healthy food initiatives. BBC deployed Finance Fund’s \$100,000 economic development grant to create Bridgeport Café and CornUcopia Place in Cleveland’s lower Kinsman neighborhood. These community facilities provide nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, an open multi-purpose space for private events, and a harvest preparation station for use by local market gardeners.

Finance Fund also presented its Visionary Funder Award to The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio that was instrumental in helping establish the Community Health Loan Fund. This \$6 million fund provides affordable, flexible financing for health care facilities to expand, renovate and purchase equipment in urban and rural areas.

“We are in good company with these organizations. Their work improves the quality of life for people in need and at the same time, provides employment and strengthens the economic base for struggling communities,” said Finance Fund CEO James R. Klein. The annual awards were presented at Finance Fund’s annual reception in May before elected leaders, funding partners, clients and supporters.

### **About Finance Fund (FinanceFund.org)**

Since 1987, Finance Fund and its affiliates have invested more than \$258.8 million in housing, economic development, and community facility projects leveraging over \$1 billion. This investment was accomplished through 2,847 awards to community-based organizations throughout the state. Finance Fund provides debt and equity to clients through the management of 19 entities totaling \$200 million. Partnerships have enabled low-income people access to 15,514 units of affordable housing, 18,417 direct jobs, and 3,036 early care and education spaces (classrooms) for 69,497 children benefiting the lives of over 127,000 Ohioans.

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