

■ A COLORFUL WORLD LEARNING CENTER

3rd Congressional District

A Colorful World Learning Center Prepares Children for Success

The shortage and cost of high-quality, licensed child care centers is a significant challenge to Ohio families struggling to meet their basic expenses. Even families eligible to receive subsidized child care may find it difficult to come by. In Franklin County, for example, there are two children for every space in a licensed child care center. When it comes to quality programs that are accredited or star-rated by the state of Ohio, the ratio is six children to every one space. As a result, working families often turn to unlicensed child care or try to juggle employment and at-home child care themselves. Children in these situations are less likely to receive the nurturing care that leads to the healthy growth, learning and development needed to prepare them for success in school and in life.

When A Colorful World Learning Center acquired a failed day care center on the east side of Columbus, it turned to Finance Fund for permanent funding for working capital, to purchase two school vans, miscellaneous equipment and to make leasehold improvements. The center is located in a Federal Empowerment Zone where the majority of children are in low-to-middle income families and receive Title XX assistance.

“Child care’s impact on the local economy is significant,” said Finance Fund CEO James R. Klein. “The long-term benefits include decreased future public sector costs in special education, crime and welfare. Other public goals, such as school readiness, rely on quality, affordable child care.”

The center currently has capacity for 55 children and is growing rapidly with plans to increase capacity to 60 children, including infants, once property improvements are made and approved by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The surrounding community and Christ Cathedral Church, which owns the property, strongly support this important community asset.



FINANCE FUND INVESTMENT:

- \$179,465 in permanent funding to purchase two school vans and equipment, make leasehold improvements and provide working capital.
- Support for the creation of 10 full-time jobs in a Federal Empowerment Zone
- Continuing revitalization of Columbus’ east side neighborhood
- Help for individuals and families to move their lives forward



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