

■ HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

10th Congressional District

A \$100,000 economic development grant from Finance Fund enables Helping Hands Community Outreach (HHCO) Center to acquire and renovate an 18,980 sq. ft. building.

The new space allows HHCO to hire 10 new housing counselors and expand services for Montgomery County residents facing housing, social and economic issues. In addition, the space accommodates onsite job training, a food pantry and Ohio Benefit Bank counseling for food stamps, medical, HEAP and other high-demand social services.

The HUD-certified nonprofit organization provides counseling services to first-time homebuyers and assists veterans and low-income families at risk of foreclosure. Services include foreclosure prevention education, loan modification assistance and mortgage assistance. Montgomery County has a high rate of poverty, unemployment and foreclosure.

“Foreclosures impose huge costs on neighbors, communities and local governments and on the broader economy,” said Finance Fund CEO James R. Klein. *“Falling housing prices erode equity, depress consumer spending and mire the housing market in a deep hole.”*

The lower level of the facility was renovated in partnership with the Development Operations Initiative Team (D.O.I.T.). Called “Building from the Top Down,” the program trains 50-90 at-risk youth in state-of-the-art green construction skills and crucial life skills.

“Construction is one of 14 sectors with the greatest potential to yield jobs with career development opportunity for low-income persons,” said Neldra Glasper, HHCO executive director. *“The program will be an intense skill-building, best practices curriculum model which will prepare students for well-paying jobs using green construction technology provided by Development Operative Initiative Training (DOIT).”*



FINANCE FUND INVESTMENT IMPACT:

- **\$100,000 grant to HHCO to purchase and renovate a building expanding housing, social and economic services to Montgomery County residents in need.**
- **Creation of 10 full-time, 5 part-time, and 50 – 90 construction training jobs in an area of high unemployment.**
- **Continuing revitalization of neighborhoods in poverty.**



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4999 Northcutt Plaza
Dayton, Ohio 45414-3839