

■ CENTRAL OHIO YOUTH FOR CHRIST

3rd Congressional District

New Markets Tax Credit Financing Brings New City Life Center and Charter School for At-Risk Youth

Central Ohio Youth for Christ (COYFC) is a non-profit organization that provides faith-based and faith-neutral programs and activities to achieve holistic improvements in the lives of youths and families in Central Ohio. COYFC focuses on low-income and at-risk 11-19 year old teens facing a variety of challenges including poverty, domestic and sex abuse, emotional trauma, and juvenile detention.

Finance Fund provided \$7,000,000 of federal NMTC allocation and \$2,564,103 of Ohio NMTC allocation to redevelop an approximately 38,000 square foot vacant elementary school and 14,000 square foot annex building into COYFC's new City Life Center in the west Franklinton neighborhood of Columbus, a highly economically distressed area with a poverty rate of 29.9%, a median family income equal to 34.1% of the applicable area median family income, and an employment rate of 13.3%.

The City Life Center will enable COYFC to provide its services, including an after-school recreation program, to at-risk youth in a neighborhood marked by the highest number of teen misdemeanors and third highest number of teen felony arrests in Franklin County. Among the neighborhood's 15-18 year olds, only 48% are in school or have a job; 9% are directly impacted by teen pregnancy; and 40% abuse drugs or alcohol. It is estimated that only 20% of students within the neighborhood graduate high school.

COYFC will use part of the City Life Center to create spaces where teens can learn skills that lead to careers. After-school and weekend programs include classes and one-on-one time with caring adults in organized activities including the recording arts, automotive mechanics, textiles and ceramics. COYFC has seen tremendous changes in teens who feel loved and accepted for who they are, in a safe learning environment.

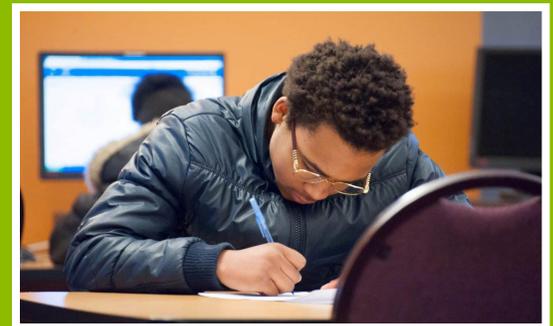
COYFC will also lease space within the City Life Center to Franklinton Preparatory Academy (FPA), a new, free public charter high school for at-risk inner city youth. FPA aims to graduate 80 percent of its students and provide them with life, job and relationship skills that will see them through a lifetime.

FPA prepares students for life after graduation along four pathways: college, trade schools, living wage- paying careers or the military. The curriculum puts emphasis on the blended learning model that keeps students with their class but offers computer-aided assistance in areas where they need additional academic support to catch up. This ultimately helps students discover their individual strengths and interests and develop specific academic and social goals.



FINANCE FUND INVESTMENT IMPACT:

- \$7 million in federal and \$2.56 million in state New Markets Tax Credit financing
- Serving over 1,100 teens annually
- Retained 18 full time permanent employees
- Created 26 new full time permanent employees within 2 years
- Created 18 construction jobs



■ **COYFC NEW LIFE CENTER AND FRANKLINTON PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

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