

■ CENTRAL OHIO YOUTH FOR CHRIST

3rd Congressional District

New Inner City Charter High School Teaches Life and Jobs Skills

A new, free public charter high school for at-risk inner city youth aims to graduate 80 percent of its students and provide them with life, job and relationship skills that will see them through a lifetime. Finance Fund provided \$9.5 million in New Markets Tax Credit financing to Central Ohio Youth for Christ (COYFC) to renovate a vacant former school building into Franklinton Preparatory Academy.

The Franklinton community has a high level of at-risk youth. Among 15-18 year olds, only 48 percent are in school or have a job, 9 percent are pregnant or have gotten a girl pregnant and 40 percent use drugs or alcohol. The zip code is the highest for teen misdemeanors and third highest for teen felony arrests in Franklin County. It is estimated that only 20 percent of neighborhood kids graduate high school.

Given the demographics of the community and staggering number of at-risk youth, COYFC saw a need to expand its successful after school program to include a charter high school. In 2005, COYFC purchased the former Chicago Avenue Elementary School site, including a 14,000 sq. ft. annex building, which had been vacant for 20 years.

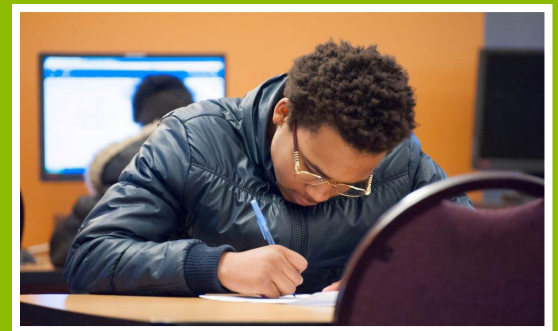
Building relationships and learning how to trust are the greatest challenges facing inner city kids. COYFC matches kids with caring adults who they learn to trust. COYFC has seen tremendous changes in kids who feel loved and accepted for who they are, in a safe learning environment. Part of the Chicago School building will be used by COYFC to create spaces where kids can learn skills that lead to careers. After-school and weekend programs include classes and one-on-one time in recording arts, automotive, textiles and ceramics.

Franklinton Preparatory Academy 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
- 26 permanent FTEs created within 2 years of project completion
- 18 construction jobs created and 18 FTEs retained



■ **FRANKLINTON PREPARATORY ACADEMY AND CENTRAL OHIO YOUTH FOR CHRIST AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**

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