



Relevant and Effective: The Columbus Urban League (CUL)

In 2015, CUL achieved significant community impacts...

- Our redesigned early learning systems ensure that all Head Start graduates enter kindergarten reading or reading ready. This year, we improved preschoolers' reading, literacy, math and science skills by nearly 30%.
- During the 2015-2016 school year, reading scores leaped 67% for 6th and 7th graders tutored by Columbus Urban League's After-School Initiative, while math proficiency results rose by 36%.
- One hundred men successfully graduated from our Father 2 Father initiative, By netting \$45,000 more in child support payments to custodial parents over the last 18 months, CUL has now helped generate \$3,345,141 for children since 2008.
- Ninety-seven people graduated from Choose 2 Change. Nine out of ten of these graduates do not return to incarceration.
- Almost 8,000 individuals benefitted from our financial capability, housing advocacy and guidance, including 31 proud new homeowners whose mortgages are valued at over \$3,100,000, as well as 473 foreclosure clients and 6691 rental clients who were able to stay in their homes.
- More than 437 hard-to-place workers secured full-time permanent jobs paying \$9.50 - \$12.00 per hour.
- My Brother's Closet successfully suited 279 men for workplace interviews.
- Nearly 1400 individuals gained workplace experience through our partnership with Franklin County Job and Family Services.
- Two hundred and three people earned certifications in supply chain management and customer service
- Two hundred eighty seven teens gained work experience and brought home more than \$700,000 in total income through our summer internship program.

While re-engineering to be even more relevant and effective...

- Exceeding our campaign goal of \$3 million by raising \$3.2 million
- Renewing 100% of 2014 local grants/contracts.
- Winning new grants/contracts totaling \$2.4 million.
- Building financial stability, with three consecutive years of positive cash flow
- Insisting on accountability and transparency, with 5 consecutive years of clean audits.
- Evolving from a federal pass-through agency (previously 95% of the budget) to a more responsive social enterprise (new \$5.5 million budget nearly all tagged to high priority local outcomes).
- Forging new partnerships with OSU/The Kirwan Institute, JP Morgan Chase, Fifth Third, Bank of America, Innosource, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus Zoo, PNC Bank, Kroger, Teaching and Learning Collaborative, Molina Healthcare, Nobul, and Raising Cane's.

Whether winning for the 2nd year the highest five-star quality rating for our South Side Head Start and adding a second site, Watkins Head Start Academy to the best in class list, or managing a summer youth employment initiative so well that Franklin County voluntarily extended it, CUL is turning heads and getting results.

The Huntington Empowerment Center

New construction of the Huntington Empowerment Center is scheduled for fall of 2016. Located across the street from the CUL's headquarters, the once vacant and falling into disrepair Center will include:

- A high skill job training center designed and operated in conjunction with major central Ohio employers that prepares and places graduates in real world jobs;
- A high-tech video production laboratory that serves as a classroom and learning lab for youth and adults, including Head Start families, and as a tech support and digital media production space for growing companies and new businesses;
- Offices and collaboration areas for fledgling companies, social enterprises, investors and vendors and business growth services, such as crowd funding platforms, micro loans, revolving loans, mentors, suppliers and other vital networks;
- Space to conduct community-building outreach efforts that promote financial capability and family stabilization
- The retail storefront of My Brother's Closet (Men's suiting initiative)

Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

Stephanie Hightower
President & CEO
Columbus Urban League

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