

Social Impact Case Study



Ohio Youth Development
Columbus, Ohio

Enriching the Lives of Grade School Children By Improving Access To Education, Equitable Development and After School Care

Who

Ohio Youth Development

Where

Havenwood Townhomes - Columbus, Ohio
Skyview Townhomes - Columbus, Ohio
Latitude Five25 - Columbus, Ohio

When

2018-Present

Janine Lovelace and Cheryl Hython’s vision was clear – to found an organization that would transform the lives of underprivileged youth in Columbus, Ohio, through health, wellness and academic enrichment.

Establishing the 501c3 nonprofit – Ohio Youth Development – in 2014 was the first hurdle; finding the right financial partners and sponsor was a seemingly insurmountable challenge. It was not until 2018 when Havenwood Townhomes changed hands and was acquired by ACRE, that Ohio Youth Development found its permanent home on Columbus’ West side. When ACRE property managers learned of the

program led by Janine and Cheryl, both residents of the townhome community, they offered OYD full use of the recently renovated multi-story clubhouse on site. The new facility was outfitted with an indoor pool, fitness studio and rooms that could be used for academic activities.

As part of its ongoing commitment to fostering better outcomes for residents at its properties, ACRE also became a leading financial partner of OYD, sponsoring sport teams and community events as needed. The private equity firm also leveraged its relationship



"It has been our immense pleasure to partner with Ohio Youth Development to ensure Janine and Cheryl have the support needed to continue making a difference in the lives of children within the community," said ACRE Managing Partner Les Menkes. "As a real estate investment firm, we believe lasting value lies not only in the appeal of our buildings, but in improving the lives of the people who call them home. OYD's mission is a perfect match for those core investment principles, and we look forward to strengthening our relationship with this amazing organization in the years to come."

with the city to have a fraction of land donated near the property for the use of a community garden. The Havenwood International Community Garden is now fully functional, managed and harvested by residents within the community and OYD children in particular.

Ohio Youth Development's mission is to provide after school care, tutoring services, extra curricular activities and ongoing development equity to children on the Westside of Columbus whose families are unable to pay exorbitant rates for such care.

The organization offers a safe environment for K-8 grade school children and provides an array of services which include fitness and health programs; academic enrichment through online learning, peer-to-peer tutoring and STEM; creative arts; health services; indoor and outdoor gardening; healthy cooking courses; composting instruction; and much more.

Ohio Youth Development activities and programs include:

- Urban agriculture and indoor gardening
- STEAM activities
- Arts & Crafts
- Chess club
- Reading club
- Indoor swimming
- Boxing training and conditioning
- eSports
- Girls to Women club
- 3-on-3 basketball
- Tech & Engineering
- Coding
- Computer Gaming

“ *What ACRE did for Ohio Youth Development was humongous, because it gave support and stability to us as an organization that really struggled financially.”*

**- Ohio Youth Development
Founder Janine Lovelace**

From 2018 to 2022 ACRE partnered with Ohio Youth Development to:

- › Provide free use of the three clubhouses at Havenwood Townhomes, Skyview Townhomes and Latitude Five25 apartments in Columbus, Ohio
- › Secure a 9,800-square-foot community garden donated by the City
- › Sponsor basketball and baseball teams
- › Sponsor several dozen children participating in the Ohio Youth Development program across three properties



Sustainable and Social Development Goals:

ACRE's Ohio Youth Development Social Impact Program aligns with several UN Sustainable Development Goals for Impact, including: Quality Education, No Poverty, Good Health & Well-being, and Reduced Inequalities. The program also aligns with ACRE's overarching UN SDG Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities: making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.



We believe that lasting value is created by investing not just in physical properties, but in the people and communities who inhabit them. At ACRE, our mission is to collaborate with local businesses and organizations to improve resident quality of life and ensure they are supported. More on our commitment to our communities and to great places to live can be found here: <https://acremgt.com/about/social-impact>

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