



**Build with Purpose**

*Real Estate for Social Change*

### **New Jersey Office of Faith-Based Initiatives Awards Build with Purpose \$50,000 Grant**

*Build with Purpose will join the Social Entrepreneur and Enterprise Development Project for the development of a new senior housing model.*

METUCHEN, NJ (November 2013) – The New Jersey Office of Faith Based Initiatives (OFBI) recently awarded Build with Purpose a \$50,000 grant as part of its SE<sup>2</sup>D Project. The mission of the SE<sup>2</sup>D Project is to nurture an environment that allows for the development of Social Entrepreneur Ventures (SEVs) to create innovative approaches to address social issues.

Build with Purpose received the award to develop a scalable model for the conversion of former convents and other underutilized buildings to housing for senior citizens and developmentally disabled citizens. In this model, residence amenities include: three meals a day, medication monitoring and supervision, housekeeping, transportation, recreation, private rooms and 24-hour on-site staff.

“There is an enormous opportunity to revitalize vacant commercial and religious properties to provide a safe and warm environment for senior citizens,” says Brian Keenan, Director & President at Build with Purpose. Build with Purpose recently held a ribbon cutting for the first such project, The Senior Residence at St. Peter the Apostle Church in River Edge, NJ which is now open and can accommodate 24 seniors. The residence has a large dining room with a commercial kitchen and several warm and welcoming community spaces including a large living room, library, a sun porch as well as a fitness room. Monthly costs at The Senior Residence start at \$2,000, a fraction of the state average of \$4,286 for assisted living facilities.

The mission of the SE<sup>2</sup>D grant program is to nurture an environment that allows for the development of Social Entrepreneur Ventures to create innovative approaches to address social issues. “More than ever nonprofit leaders need to be entrepreneurs,” says Edward LaPorté, Executive Director of the NJ Office of Faith Based Initiatives. “We want to pave the way for additional resources allowing organizations to continue to provide needed services to the residents of this great state.”

#### ***About the New Jersey Office of Faith Based Initiatives***

NJOFBI’s mission is to eliminate all barriers to funding and other resource opportunities, create greater access for partnership and enhance the capacity of faith and community based organizations (FBCOs) to effectively design and implement successful programs and efficiently manage the day to day operations of their organization.

#### ***About Build with Purpose***

Build with Purpose has facilitated over \$120 million in real estate development financing for more than 25 community organizations over the course of its first ten years and has an established track record directly developing real estate, managing real estate projects for other nonprofits and bringing a variety of community real estate assets back to life. These projects have positively impacted over 6,000 people and helped to make the surrounding communities healthier and more vibrant.