



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Lady Liberty Academy Charter School Celebrates New School with Ribbon Cutting

Newark, NJ (October 23, 2014) On Wednesday October 22, Lady Liberty Academy Charter School (Lady Liberty) and Build with Purpose were joined by students, families, community members and others to celebrate the opening of Lady Liberty's new school. Glenn Pinder, Executive Director of Lady Liberty along with Councilman Joe McCallum, Brian Keenan, President of Build with Purpose and Lady Liberty board president K. Anthony Thomas joined in the ceremonies. The ribbon cutting was followed by tours of the new school facility and student jazz and dance performances. Build with Purpose, a national leader in charter school development, is the owner and developer of the property.



After 3 years Lady Liberty returned to her home town and students began their new school year in the brand new building at 746 Sanford Avenue, Newark. The new permanent site brings the 468 (K-8) students back home to Newark in a newly constructed 18,000 square foot middle school, a renovated elementary school, a gym and a new outside courtyard. The school opened in 2001 in Newark but had spent the past three years temporarily located in Harrison, NJ.

The new school provides the students with a modern state-of-the-art facility, the new wing houses the middle school (grade 5-8) and the renovated section is home to Kindergarten - 4th grade students. A dedicated music class room, a gym connected to the school with a covered walkway and light and airy cafeteria which looks out onto the courtyard are all part of the campus providing a safe and inviting environment for the students. Lady Liberty Academy has a thirty year lease on the building with an option to purchase at any time.

"We are pleased to be back home in the heart of the Newark community. The new building exceeds our expectations and our students are thrilled to be here." said Glen Pinder, Executive Director of Lady Liberty Academy Charter School. "The new state-of-the-art facility is perfect for providing our students with a learning environment that communicates achievement. We are

grateful to be in the Vailsburg neighborhood and look forward to strengthening our ties with the community through our students and with our neighbors."

The \$10.5 million project was financed by Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) and NJEDA tax exempt bonds. Predevelopment financing was provided by The Reinvestment Fund. GLUCK+ was the architect and construction manager for the project and provided a seamless, high quality, and efficient delivery of the project.

***About Lady Liberty Academy Charter School***

Lady Liberty Academy Charter School is a K-8 program providing school choice for the families of Newark and surrounding areas. "The Lady Liberty Academy mission is to be a learning community comprised of educators, parents and community stakeholders whose primary focus is student achievement. We believe that by applying the principles of hard work and effective effort, our scholars will become lifelong learners who are prepared to earn a college degree and become change agents within their community.

Our school philosophy is to provide a quality education to all children NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!

Board President  
K. Anthony Thomas  
[www.llacs.org](http://www.llacs.org)

Executive Director  
Glen Pinder  
[gpinder@llacs.org](mailto:gpinder@llacs.org)

***About Build with Purpose***

Build with Purpose has facilitated over \$150 million in real estate development financing for more than 30 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 8,000 people and helped to make the surrounding communities healthier and more vibrant. For more information about Build with Purpose go to [www.bwppurpose.org](http://www.bwppurpose.org) or contact: Brian Keenan, President, [bkeenan@bwppurpose.org](mailto:bkeenan@bwppurpose.org), 732-635-1000 X153