

## **S&P rates its first Newark, NJ charter school**

*Investment grade credit rating helps school to secure funds for its new facility*

NEWARK, NJ (January 2, 2013) –Build with Purpose, a national nonprofit charter school developer, announced today that its client, Lady Liberty Academy Charter School (LLACS), has secured an investment grade rating from Standard & Poors paving the way for the school to secure significantly more affordable financing for the development of its school. LLACS is the first charter school in Newark to receive an invest grade credit rating.

Build with Purpose has been leading the effort to renovate and expand the former St. John's Ukrainian School in Newark, NJ which will house LLACS upon completion. The facility is located at 744 Sanford Ave in Newark, NJ. The existing structures include a 7,500 sq. ft. gym and 18,000 sq. ft. school building with 11 classrooms. Build with Purpose has entered into a long term lease for the buildings and the surrounding property with plans to construct a 25,000 sq. ft. addition which will include additional classroom space, a cafeteria and community rooms. The space will be the permanent home of Lady Liberty Academy Charter School which opened in 2001 and currently leases temporary space in Harrison, NJ.

Standard & Poors' rating solidifies LLACS's position as a quality school, allowing them to access high yield bonds that are attractive to investors. The rating shows that the school is in a strong financial position, has solid operating results and has a management team with a strong working relationship, performing at a high level.

"The market for public sale charter school bonds is strong and we expect the high yield LLACS bonds will be attractive to not only buyers of charter school bonds, but to buyers of municipal revenue bonds as well," said Eric Felczak, Project Manager at Build with Purpose.

"We are grateful for Build with Purpose's efforts on this project. Without them and their backing, the project probably would not have received such a favorable rating," said Glen Pinder, Lead Person at LLACS.

Bonds mature over the course of 35 years, as opposed to debt financing which is typically amortized over 20 or 25 years. Low interest rates coupled with longer term money enables the school to get more educational space out of the project.

### **About Build with Purpose**

Build with Purpose was started in 2003 and its mission is to build sustainable organizations and healthy, vibrant communities. Since its inception, the organization has helped dozens of organizations with their facilities, including over 20 charter schools. Build with Purpose has secured over \$150 million in real estate financing and assisted more than 5,000 people. While charter schools have been the bulk of its business, the organization has also developed 300 units of housing in Delaware and New Jersey. Now in its tenth year of operations, the organization has expanded its work to the development of private schools and senior housing. For more information on Build with Purpose, go to [www.bwpurpose.org](http://www.bwpurpose.org).