

Pride Academy Charter School Starts School Year in Newly Renovated Building

The East Orange school's renovated facility creates new classrooms and bathrooms for students

EAST ORANGE (October 2011) – Students of Pride Academy Charter School started the 2011 school year on September 13th with more space and renovated facilities at 117 Elmwood Avenue. Build with Purpose has been working with the school helping them to purchase, renovate and expand their existing facility.

Four modular classrooms were added along with two new bathrooms, a new ventilation system in the basement and a new handicapped accessible entrance that will connect the school to the modular classrooms. School administrators refer to the modular buildings as “cottages,” representing their cozy feel. Upgrades to the existing 26,000 square foot school building include reconfigured classrooms and two completely renovated bathrooms.

Purchase of the facility secures the school a permanent home allowing them to build equity. The project was completed less than three years after Pride Academy opened their doors. \$2,200,000 in financing was provided by The Reinvestment Fund and New Jersey Economic Development Authority for the purchase of their existing building and four adjacent vacant lots, previously leased from the Imani Baptist Church.

The renovated facility provides Pride Academy with additional space to meet their programmatic needs and enhance their educational programs for the 240 middle school students who attend the school. Furthermore, the purchase will save the school approximately \$75,000 annually in facility costs, allowing for more money to be put towards educational programs and academic support.

Build with Purpose was the nonprofit real estate developer and project manager for the project and worked to assemble the project team, secured the financing and is managing the renovation and expansion process. LAN Associates was the architect and engineer for the project.

“Dealing with time constraints and mother nature (Hurricane Irene) were major obstacles that could have resulted in problems for the school. Because of the tremendous work of the project team, the end product was a great success for Pride Academy as well as the East Orange community,” said Steve Moschetti, Project Manager at Build with Purpose.

As a nonprofit, Build with Purpose is committed to building strong organizations and communities through innovative real estate development. Since its inception in 2003, Build with Purpose has assisted dozens of nonprofits in developing their facilities to meet their social service needs.

Build with Purpose provides all phases of real estate development and technical assistance including financial structuring and project management. Build with Purpose has been recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education with the Corporate Partnership Award for its work with charter schools and by the Federal Department of Education as a promising practice in real estate development.

For more information, contact Build with Purpose at (732) 635-1000.

On the web: www.bwpurpose.org; www.prideacs.org