



Twenty One and Counting

Nation's Largest Charter School Developer Announces its 21st Project

METUCHEN, NJ (June 2012) – Today Build with Purpose (Build), a Metuchen, New Jersey based nonprofit and the nation's largest charter school developer announced its twenty first charter school project.

Build's latest project is the renovation and expansion of the former St. John's Ukrainian School in Newark, NJ which upon completion will house Lady Liberty Academy Charter School.

The latest Build school 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 has entered into a long-term lease for the buildings and the surrounding property and will 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.

Build has developed 20 other school projects, the majority in New Jersey, but has recently expanded its work in New York and Massachusetts. Build is a full-service developer and assists schools and nonprofits with finding a location, putting together the development team, structuring the financing and overseeing the construction.

"I think a lot of people are surprised that we are a nonprofit, which is understandable since our work is atypical. But we have been successful in using real estate to promote positive social change. The places where we spend our time—schools, offices, public parks, etc.—have a real and lasting impact on us. They help to shape the people we become," said Brian Keenan, Director and President of Build with Purpose.

"We think school buildings are the single most important community asset, and they should be testaments to the important work that takes place there. The redevelopment of a vacant building or neighborhood eye sore into a school building impacts not only the kids who attend that school, but the entire community. It is not easy work in these tough times, but it is important work. We think these kids should have the ability to attend good and safe schools," said Keenan.

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 over two dozen organizations with their facilities, including 20 charter schools. Build has secured over \$150 million dollars in real estate 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 and its work, go to www.bwpurpose.org.