



Build with Purpose

Real Estate for Social Change

Build with Purpose Receives \$25,000 Grant for Healthy Communities Program

Walmart Foundation funding to help bring more school gardens and healthy meals to urban areas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METUCHEN, NJ (August 1, 2011) — Build with Purpose has received a \$25,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to support the Garden State Schools Initiative, a program which helps schools in low-income urban communities establish healthy food practices and connect with sustainable resources, increasing healthy food options in schools. The Garden State Schools Initiative is comprised of three main components: creating school or community gardens, making school lunches healthier by improving the quality of meals served, and helping schools identify and access healthy food resources and programs in their communities.

The grant comes to Build with Purpose through Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program. The Garden State Schools Initiative aligns with Walmart Foundation's focus on education, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness.

The grant will fund the building of up to four school gardens in spring 2012 as well as provide support to operate the program over the next year ensuring access to healthy food for students and families with the greatest need.

“This grant from the Walmart Foundation recognizes the value of ensuring a healthy environment not only for the children who attend these schools, but for their surrounding communities as well,” said Keith Timko, Director and CEO of Build with Purpose. “At the end of the day, we see school-based initiatives such as this garden effort having a positive ripple effect across neighborhoods that lack access to fresh and healthy food.”

Since launching the Garden State School Initiative in September 2010, READS has worked with four low-income urban charter schools, helping to build school gardens at three schools, connecting two schools with a program that will provide over 100 students with supplemental food on weekends and improving the fresh fruit and vegetable program at another school.

The Walmart Foundation strives to provide opportunities that improve the lives of individuals and communities. Through financial contributions, in-kind donations and volunteerism, the Walmart Foundation supports initiatives focused on enhancing opportunities in education, workforce development / economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. Their current focus is on hunger relief.

An innovative nonprofit real estate development company, 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, call Build with Purpose at (732) 635-1000.

On the web:

www.bwpurpose.org

www.walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving