

## ■ BROKEN CONNECTIONS, INC.

11th Congressional District

### **At-risk and homeless youth find help and healing at East Cleveland facility**

Runaway, homeless and street youth, between the ages of 10 to 21, who are at risk of sexual exploitation or abuse, are finding help and healing at Broken Connections, Inc. (BCI). This community-based nonprofit organization provides shelter, food, clothing and supportive services to help at-risk youth reclaim and maintain control over their lives.

Finance Fund provided BCI with an \$86,374 economic development grant to provide emergency housing, education and supportive services for 75 homeless youth in the crime and drug-ridden neighborhood of East Cleveland.

In this neighborhood there is a 40 percent poverty rate and 37 percent unemployment rate – and 38 percent of the city's youth drop out of high school before 12th grade. In 2012 alone, Cuyahoga County prosecuted 491 juvenile cases in East Cleveland. Of those cases, 134 were violent crimes and 111 were drug offenses. Because of the city's high poverty rate and lack of opportunity, many youth are caught up in a cycle of crime, teen pregnancy, gang involvement, drug trafficking and illiteracy.

*“Creating a safe environment for at-risk youth and getting them off the streets is essential to breaking the cycle of poverty and ultimately revitalizing communities,”* said Finance Fund CEO James R. Klein. *“We are a partner in providing hope for a brighter future.”*

BCI is a community collaborative partnership between the East Cleveland School District, the East Cleveland Domestic/Family Violence Program, the Cuyahoga County Children and Family Services, Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, East Cleveland Police Department and Northeast Ohio Recovery Association.



### **FINANCE FUND INVESTMENT IMPACT:**

- \$86,374 grant provides emergency housing, education and supportive services for 75 homeless youth between the ages of 10 to 21.
- Supports creation of 10 full-time, 3 part-time, and 3 construction jobs in an area of high unemployment.
- Continues revitalization of impoverished neighborhoods.



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