

Finance Fund Capital Corporation

■ THE UPTOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.

9th Congressional District

From Abandoned to Abundant: “Market on the Green” Fresh Food Grocery and Community Hub Revitalizes UpTown Toledo

For years, a two-acre lot and adjacent four-story building at the heart of UpTown Toledo were abandoned, filled with trash and often used by drug dealers, prostitutes and homeless people. But business leaders knew that if they could turn the lot into a community park it would be a catalyst for investment in the building and the neighborhood.

Using neighborhood resources to clear up debris, provide landscaping and other services, the lot became UpTown Green Park. Finance Fund provided The UpTown Association with a \$25,000 predevelopment grant to help determine the best use for the city-owned building located on the newly created green space.

After the UpTown Association conducted research with community residents, it was clear that the neighborhood needed a fresh food market in this USDA-certified “food desert”. In the core market area, 33% of residents do not have an automobile, 50% of the 9,000 area households rely on SNAP benefits, the unemployment rate is at 18% and the poverty rate is 45%.

The market project is an ideal fit with mission of Promedica and The Ebeid Institute which poured \$3.5 million into renovation of the 34,000 sq. ft. building to create the nonprofit “Market on the Green” fresh food grocery and community hub. Today, the site is a critical part of UpTown Toledo’s ongoing and significant renaissance.

The Market provides fresh and healthy food such as produce, meats, dairy, and bakery items, with an emphasis on locally sourced products. It also hires unemployed or homeless people and provides them with opportunity to get on-the-job training, education and advancement to a permanent job at Promedica. The building is also a training center and community kitchen. On the second floor, community organizations provide services such as such as financial literacy programs, job training, nutrition education and cooking classes.



FINANCE FUND CAPITAL CORPORATION INVESTMENT IMPACT:

- Provides a much-needed grocery and job training facility to a recovering neighborhood.
- Creates two new full-time and 10 part-time jobs, and 25 construction jobs; and retains one full-time job.



■ MARKET ON THE GREEN PROMEDICA EBEID INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION HEALTH

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