



Giving an Opportunity to College-Bound Residents



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Too often, smart and capable students find themselves without the means to further their education. Greater Columbus Community Helping Hands, Inc. (GCCHH) and the Ohio Capital Impact Corporation (OCIC), the philanthropic hand of the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH), have partnered together to offer a hand to qualified but underserved students who wish to continue their academic careers. This year, with funding provided in part by OCCH, GCCHH was able to offer 19 students free laptops and equipment along with life skills workshops and continuous support, GCCHH/OCIC helped to better prepare them for college life. With this small assistance, these students are able to open doors to the success and bright futures that they deserve.



In order to qualify for this program, students must be living in an OCCH property and must have earned a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher. In addition to this, students must also complete some degree of community service or extracurricular activities, or have a plan to donate 25 hours of community service in the next school year. After a gala dinner in spring, selected students complete the Stepping Off to College Program, which includes workshops aimed at improving their chances for success and teaching them skills they might not have learned elsewhere. Following this training, each student receives a number of school and living related supplies as well. All of this is designed to help these college bound students be as prepared as possible for their col-

Founded in 2006, GCCHH is a nonprofit organization that provides scholarships and full computer packages to students in partnership with the Cage Family Scholarship Fund. To date, they have awarded more than \$260,000.00 to college students who are qualified but experience financial hardship.

OCIC is OCCH's nonprofit affiliate that administers its philanthropic activities, with focus on benefiting neighborhoods and residents where OCCH has invested in affordable housing. OCIC has awarded more than \$5.7 million since its inception in 2012 to partners for programs designed to assist residents, enhance economic and educational opportunities, and improve lives.

