



Over-the-Rhine Community Housing and Ohio Capital Impact Corporation Partner to Support Youth Development

In 2014 the Ohio Capital Impact Corporation (OCIC), through its Carol Mount Peterson Resident Development Fund (RDF), awarded Over-the-Rhine Community Housing (OTRCH) \$10,750 to provide a summer program for the youth of Sharp Village, Sharp Village Annex, and Vine St. Community Project. OTRCH partnered with OCIC, to support Children's Creative Corner, their youth development program.

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing (OTRCH), resident-centered affordable housing organization, is seeing strong investment and fresh enthusiasm through their youth development program- Children's Creative Corner (CCC). Kids meet two evenings every week throughout the calendar year at the arts-based after-school program, which also stands as a communal access point to other resources for youth & their families. Over the course of one year, approximately 90-100 neighborhood children between the ages of 5-14 come to CCC, with many more waiting eagerly to be old enough to get involved with the program.

Beyond exposure to a continued creative arts-based curriculum, CCC participants have had the opportunity to experience an even wider range of activities and partner programs with the support of the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH) and OCIC through the Carol Mount Peterson Resident Development Fund in 2014.

Twenty-five youth traveled to the YMCA's Camp Ernst in Burlington, KY this summer, where they spent a solid week interacting with nature, meeting other campers and counselors

from all walks of life, and participating in group activities aimed at building confidence and encouraging healthy behaviors. Upon returning home, most smiling campers report loving playing in the lake with a variety of water toys, gliding down the forested zip-line, and learning some new songs to belt out around the campfire. The peers they meet during this one week of their lives seem to take a special place in forming their worldviews, and are mentioned for many months after camp is over. A strong partnership with Camp Ernst continues to grow each year, as CCC is able to send more of its youth to its thriving, unique program.

While several groups were circulating to and from Camp Ernst, another was representing Over-the-Rhine in the citywide Soap Box Derby races. These monthly events are held at different locations around Cincinnati and run through the spring and summer. Support from OCIC also went towards kids taking part in building, maintaining, and driving full-size, wooden cars in many competitive heats against other racers. The time spent before, during, and after races allows participants to see a project through from start to finish, and to take pride in the maintenance of their vehicle and maneuvering skills on the racetrack. OTRCH and CCC are excited to have some of the top-placing racers in their midst!

These extra-curricular programs help to create a strong foundation on which youth continue to build broad personal and cultural experiences that bring out their best selves. The efforts of OTRCH fulfill the mission and vision of OCIC and the Carol Mount Peterson Resident Development Fund.



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