In 2014 the Ohio Capital Impact Corporation (OCIC), through its Carol Mount Peterson Resident Development Fund (RDF), awarded Homeport $28,000 to provide a summer program for the youth of Pheasant Run. Through a partnership with Boys and Girls Club of Columbus (“BGCC”), they have given the youth the opportunity to be a part of a camp focused on summer learning, character building, and activities geared toward broadening their future goals.

With the help of the award from OCIC, the partnership between Homeport and BGCC is able to provide an impactful summer program. Monday through Friday from 12 to 5 p.m. the youth are immersed in activity. For the first hour of their day they are provided lunch and given the opportunity to socialize in a safe environment. The rest of their day consists of character building, academic success activities and athletic activities.

Through the summer camp, the youth have had the opportunity to learn about notable people from history, interact and learn through games such as charades and tug-o-war, research and present information about potential colleges, experience lessons on physical and emotional empowerment, and even go offsite to conduct mock interviews at a real bank.

The partnership between Homeport and BGCC has been extremely successful. They are only partway through the summer and already their results shine through. While talking with a few of the youth, they expressed the immense impact the camp has had on their lives.

“When I am here I am not forced to do work, it’s more of a free will kind of thing.” - Maya Gibson

“My favorite part of being here is that we actually get to have fun while we are learning! This is different than a school classroom. While I am here I like to learn.” - Desiree Settle

Over the first three weeks, BGCC has worked with 57 different youth. On a daily basis, about 30 children attend.

From personal empowerment to building futures, the camp meets and exceeds the mission of the Carol Mount Peterson Resident Development Fund.