

Finance Fund Capital Corporation

■ HATTIE LARLHAM FOOD HUB FRESH MARKET

11th Congressional District

New Corner Market Brings Fresh Produce, Training and Jobs to Akron

Thanks in part to funding from the Healthy Food for Ohio (HFFO) program administered by Finance Fund Capital Corporation (FCAP), a 4,400 sq. ft. fresh food “corner market” has grown out of the Hattie Larlham food processing hub. It provides Akron residents with produce, and creates new job training opportunities for people with disabilities.

Hattie Larlham is a group of five 501c3 operating agencies that provides services and programs to people of all ages who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. These services include intensive 24/7 residential medical care for people with profound disabilities and complex medical needs. In addition, the organization operates a successful community employment program for adults seeking training and job readiness skills so that they can join their typically abled peers in the workforce. Since its start six months ago, Hattie Larlham’s job training program has enrolled 15 people with developmental disabilities and three additional people from the immediate community. So far, three people with disabilities have been placed into full-time jobs.

“In addition to creating new job training opportunities and improving fresh food access, the retail market provides a way to move produce grown at farms across the region to market more efficiently,” said FCAP President and CEO Diana Turoff.

The new retail market features a commercial produce processing kitchen and an education facility for nutrition and cooking classes, training for food professionals, and community gatherings. In addition, a permanent farm stand will operate May-October, and a mobile farm market will circulate year-round on routes in distressed areas within a two-mile radius of the food hub. The routes are identified through work with Summit County Public Health, the City of Akron, and other partners.

HFFO funding was applied to start-up equipment and permit costs for the retail market, first-year operating support for the mobile farm market, and development of the retail customer outreach and marketing strategy.

As part of its employment initiatives, Hattie Larlham operates a substantial agricultural and food production training program in Summit County. The organization currently has two farm sites with eight acres in production, including two acres in West Akron – an area marked by high poverty, high unemployment and low fresh food access.



FINANCE FUND CAPITAL CORPORATION INVESTMENT IMPACT:

- Provides fruits and vegetables to an area with low fresh food access.
- Provides job training for people with disabilities and local residents.



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Akron, Ohio 44307

About Healthy Food for Ohio (HFFO)

The HFFO program provides flexible financing to fund costs associated with land acquisition, predevelopment, construction, equipment, infrastructure and related expenses. Financing can be used for capital projects to build new healthy food retail or expand existing facilities in underserved areas. A wide range of projects is eligible for funding including: grocery chains, individual grocery stores, neighborhood food stores, co-ops and other food projects such as farmers’ markets and food hubs.