

National Church Residences Foundation

Champion Intergenerational Enrichment and Education Center

Columbus, Ohio

Challenge

The Near East Side neighborhood where the Center is located has a higher percentage of children under the age of 17 as well as adults over the age of 55 compared to City of Columbus and Franklin County. Over 50 percent of the residents also live in poverty. There was a need for a purposeful and deliberate community engagement in the area.

Innovation

The Center created an accessible community space with a focus on health and wellness, lifelong learning, and growth across the lifespan. This focus area has a visible impact on older adults and young people.

Overview

National Church Residences' intergenerational programs have been associated with increased engagement among frail older adults and it has also been found that older adults with dementia or other cognitive impairments experience more positive effects during interactions with children than they did during nonintergenerational activities. Preschool children also benefit from intergenerational programs; they scored significantly higher on personal and social development assessments when compared to their counterparts.

PARTNERS

Columbus Early Learning Centers, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, The Ohio State University, Partners Achieving Community Transformation, and Department of Housing and Urban Development (through a grant to the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority).

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