

Donor Spotlight: Making Financial Lives Better



BANK OF AMERICA

Bank of America is guided by a common purpose - to make financial lives better. The company directs this

purpose not just in its business model, but also through its philanthropy. The Bank of America Charitable Foundation builds strong partnerships with non-profit organizations focused on issues fundamental to economic mobility in low- to moderate-income communities.

Bank of America has been a dedicated partner of Interfaith Neighbors for almost a decade. In 2021, Bank of America made its first investment in Interfaith Neighbors' (IFN) Launch Center with a grant of \$30,000. Since that time, the company has continued to invest in the program with an additional \$100,000 in Launch Center funding.

In 2022, IFN was invited to participate in Bank of America's Neighborhood Builders program, which provides both funding for community development initiatives and leadership training. Since 2004, Bank of America has invested more than \$300 million in 100 communities across the U.S., partnered with more than 1,600 nonprofits, and helped more than 3,000 nonprofit leaders strengthen their leadership skills.

"Our Neighborhood Builders program allows us to back the leaders who are working in our communities. We provide the resources that empower them to continue and bolster what their organizations do to build up underserved neighborhoods and advance economic mobility," said Dwayne Redmond, Market Executive, Bank of America New Jersey, pictured.

"This program is actually the largest investment into



Dwayne Redmond, Market Executive, Bank of America NJ and Chip Craig, Co-Executive Director, Interfaith Neighbors. nonprofit leadership development in the U.S., it's by invitation only, and I've had the pleasure of recognizing some truly incredible nonprofits like Interfaith Neighbors with this award. The program is the full package and includes flexible funding, a year of leadership training for the executive director and an emerging leader, a national network of peer organizations and the opportunity to access capital," Redmond continued.

Through the Neighborhood Builders Program, IFN was awarded an additional \$200,000 in funding over a two year period. Chip Craig, Co-Executive Director, and Kerwin Webb, Education Specialist, participated with other nonprofit leaders from across the United States in a series of leadership training sessions.

"Bank of America's convening of non-profit organizations from across the country demonstrated that driving change around longstanding inequities requires caring people acting with urgency and purpose," says Chip Craig.

IFN is grateful for Bank of America's continued support of the Launch Center and its investment in local community revitalization efforts.

Have You Checked in on Your Donor Advised Fund Lately?

Are you the holder of a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)? Consider making a disbursement to Interfaith Neighbors.

By giving through a donor-advised fund you can:

- Support a charity you believe in
- Maintain family involvement in charitable decisions
- Take advantage of immediate tax benefits with the ability to distribute funds later
- Consolidate all your charitable giving

Did you know you can recommend a single or recurring donations to a charitable organization like Interfaith Neighbors?

Interested in establishing a Donor Advised Fund?

Speak to your financial advisor. To establish the fund, you will make an irrevocable tax-deductible contribution (cash, stock, real estate, etc.) to a sponsoring organization, community foundation or financial institution. You will receive a tax receipt and tax benefits when funds are deposited into your DAF.

The DAF sponsoring organization oversees those funds as they grow tax free. As the donor, you can direct disbursements to your favorite charitable organizations.

Want to get involved at Interfaith Neighbors?

There are lots of ways you can help!

GIVE • LEARN • VOLUNTEER

To learn more about the community issues we address or for more information about volunteering, joining our team, or ways to give, visit: www.interfaithneighbors.org or call 732.775.0525.



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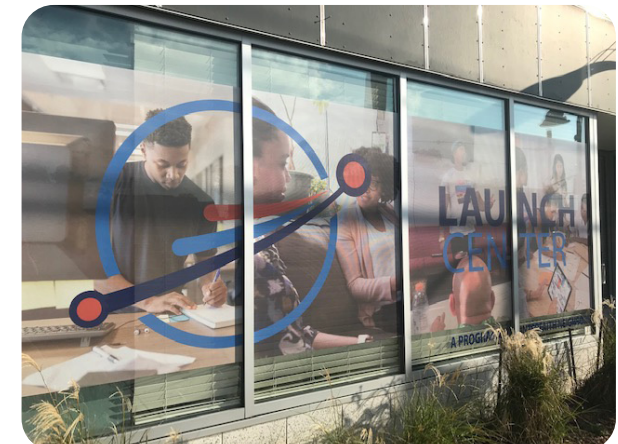
Interfaith Neighbors

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

June 2024

Program Spotlight: The Launch Center - Where the Path to Economic Success Starts

The Launch Center is on a mission to assist individuals in launching their careers, businesses, and lives. Many people don't know where to start when they find themselves in need of assistance, searching for a job, or setting goals to obtain a career. That's where Interfaith Neighbors' (IFN) Launch Center steps in. With a newly expanded space, the Launch Center is home to a Help Desk, community classroom, conference room, and meeting and office spaces. The Launch Center offers an array of services to individuals from the Monmouth County community, meeting them wherever they are on their journey to economic success.



The Launch Center welcomes individuals, small businesses, non-profits, and community groups, working together to build a stronger community.

Launch Center... (continued)

The Help Desk is the starting point for people visiting the Launch Center, whether they are seeking help accessing government services, such as SNAP benefits or Social Security, with connections to other agencies or Interfaith Neighbors programs. They may simply need to use a computer to fill out a job application. Staff at the Help Desk can steer visitors in the right direction, which is often Launch Center life coaching, capacity building, business coaching, or the intensive career preparation course, SOAR.

SOAR is a ‘barrier-busting’ workforce training program that involves success skills training, certification program scholarships, and success coaching. The combination of eliminating barriers, such as transportation and childcare costs, life coaching, and scholarships into professional certification programs ensures SOAR Colleagues’ success upon graduation. Popular career pathways include Business Office Support Specialists (BOSS), Commercial Driver’s License (CDL), and Computer Service Technician. The Launch Center maintains relationships with local employers in these fields that know and value SOAR training.

The Launch Center also offers the Young Masterminds program, which is like SOAR, but designed for high school students. Young Masterminds prepares high schoolers for their transition after graduation. Now operating at Asbury Park, Neptune, and Academy Charter High Schools, this program helps students learn more about themselves, their strengths, and how to utilize them to reach their potential.

Capacity building coaching of small business owners and newly formed non-profits, and individual life coaching are Launch Center programs growing in demand. Staff members and Certified Life Coaches, Gillian Edgar and Semaj Vanzant, assist life coaching participants in defining goals and taking tangible steps to accomplish them. Business coaching aids local entrepreneurs

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Launch Center... (continued)



Young Masterminds Kingston Pinnock (l) and Daaron Lynch (r), both freshman at Neptune High School with Semaj Vanzant, Launch Center Director of Relationship Management, who leads the program.

in developing business plans or stabilizing and growing their business. Non-profit organizations and community groups are also assisted through capacity building, working with Launch Center staff to develop fundraising tools, operating budgets, strategic plans, and event planning. The Prosper Foundation, a blossoming non-profit organization in Asbury Park focused on mental health services for youth, and the Cazzeek Brothers, an Asbury Park and Neptune non-profit organization facilitating youth mentoring and sports programs, are two of the Launch Center’s current capacity building clients. Through work with Launch Center staff, these non-profit organizations have been able to expand their work, increase their philanthropic revenue, and make lasting connections within the community.

The Launch Center, established in 2021, each year now assists approximately 250 individuals at its Help Desk, educates 300 workshop participants on various topics, graduates 20 colleagues from the SOAR program, assists 50 clients through Life Coaching, Small Business Counseling and Non-Profit Capacity Building clients, and coaches more than 30 students through the Young Masterminds program.

Neighbors Spotlight: Cazzeek Brothers: Making Community Service Popular

The Cazzeek Brothers have been transforming the Asbury Park community since 1982. Since early in 2023, they have been working with the Launch Center to maximize their work in the Asbury Park and Neptune communities. In 1982, 12 young men from Asbury Park joined together to give back to the community and connect with their peers. 42 years later, the group is thriving with more community outreach than ever, and is now a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Ron Lyons, Cazzeek Brothers Event Coordinator, chuckled saying, “we like to say we made community service popular.” Ron grew up in Neptune and after attending college, he returned to his home community. He is a full-time truck driver and has been a Cazzeek Brothers member for over 10 years. In his role, Ron helps organize, schedule, and facilitate events with youth groups in the community.

The organization, which Ron described as similar to a fraternity, has a goal of being positive role models and transitioning community youth into helpful contributors to the local community. Cazzeek Brothers primarily operates youth programming for ages 6 to 13 years, including sports programs and mentoring.



Members of the Cazzeek Brothers, who volunteer their time in the promotion of community service among area youth.

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Cazzeek Brothers...(continued)

The Cazzeek Brothers began working with the Launch Center in 2023 on capacity building. Ron explained the Launch Center has helped with strategic planning, organizing operations, hosting events, and miscellaneous resources such as printing and making copies.

“I have never been this organized! The Launch Center has been a blessing in assisting us in really thinking ahead with our events and planning everything intentionally,” Ron explained. The Launch Center has helped Cazzeek Brothers organize and restructure their organization to run things more effectively, allowing them to expand their programming to include cheer leading for young girls.

The Cazzeek Brothers plan to continue to grow their programming in the future, hoping to facilitate mentoring all year, host more field trips with youth groups, and start career building with kids earlier in their lives to give them a head start. Ron expressed a desire to start working with high schoolers in the future and thinks the Launch Center staff will be an amazing resource to help them accomplish their further expansion goals.

“The Launch Center is an integral part of the Asbury Park and Neptune communities. It has become a safe place to go for essential information and resources for individuals in need, and a hub for community groups,” Ron described when asked about the Center’s importance. IFN’s Launch Center will continue its multifaceted approach to assisting those in the community, including growing their capacity building network.