



Truth Spring Trade School

Written by: Carrie Strickland
July 6, 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission & Objective

The mission of Truth Spring is to rebuild the North Highland community with Christ-centered projects and strategies. Truth Spring Workforce is a critical component to rebuilding the North Highland community. A core component to the make-up of Truth Spring is our belief in “development from within”. We believe that authentic community development means developing the people who currently live in the community, not bypassing them. We believe authentic community development means equipping residents with the resources and skills to better their lives and better their community. *The objective of the Truth Spring Trade School is to give every resident in the North Highland community the opportunity to engage in productive, meaningful work as they are given the opportunity to rebuild their own community with their own hands* (“They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined places that have been devastated for generations. They will be called the restorer of the streets” Isaiah 61:4).

Goals

- Each student will complete 8 weeks of in-classroom workforce training using the Jobs for Life curriculum. This curriculum lays the foundation for NH residents to see work as a blessing and not a curse. This curriculum provides excellent soft skill job training, as well as opportunities for spiritual and emotional development.
 - During the 8 week classroom training, *on-site* GED courses will begin via a partnership with Columbus Technical College. Students will participate in Jobs for Life courses and GED courses (and various other certifications through Columbus Technical College). This will be a “pay to learn” program, meaning, students will get paid minimum wage for their classroom time.
 - Upon successful completion of the 8 week workforce training, each student will begin their trade skill training. This will be a 10 month paid, training period. *Each student will have the opportunity to learn a trade that focuses on the redevelopment of their own neighborhood:* 1) demolition/construction of vacant and/or substandard homes within the North Highland community, 2) culinary arts/food services in partnership with Olivia Amos and the Food Mill, 3) urban arming/wellness in partnership with Keith Sims at Mercy Med, 4) janitorial services in partnership with Goodwill (this would eventually include seeking to acquire contracts from businesses in the North Highland neighborhood allowing us to clean/sanitize their facilities).
 - Truth Spring, Inc will seek to partner with the City of Columbus, the Columbus Land Bank, and individual landlords for the purposes of acquiring vacant lots and abandoned homes within the North Highland neighborhood (focusing primarily on 6th avenue where there is an overwhelming amount of blight and crime). Truth Spring Trade School will then use those properties to create opportunities for our students to learn the trade of demolition and/or construction. *Truth Spring Trade School students will renovate and restore those homes and then Truth Spring will sell/rent those homes. Over time, this will drastically improve housing*
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TRUTH SPRING, INC.

conditions while also helping to eliminate crime and blight within the neighborhood. Upon completion of the trade skill training, each student will then be equipped to search out and gain employment for a higher paying, private sector job in Columbus, GA

Solution

Chronically unemployed and underdeveloped individuals living in the North Highland community will have the opportunity to see their own worth and value as they develop skills and abilities necessary for productive, meaningful work. *North Highland residents will be given the opportunity to rebuild their own community, while also gaining valuable work-related training, skills, and experience.*

Project Outline

July 2020

- Begin seeking funding for the trade school program.
- Begin seeking to hire a contractor to work for Truth Spring who will teach interns in the trade of demolition/construction and oversee all demolition/construction projects within the North Highland community.
- Begin seeking to hire a part-time landscaper to work for Truth Spring who will teach interns the trade of landscaping and also oversee all clean-up and beautification projects within the North Highland community.
- Collaborate with Mercy Med Farm, The Food Mill, and Jan-Pro for the purposes of offering training in culinary art, janitorial services, and urban farming.

January 2021

- Begin the 8 week training using the Jobs for Life curriculum and offering on-site GED training. Students will be paid during their 8 week classroom training. Coming to class and getting ready to take their GED exam will be their “job” for 8 weeks.

March 2021

- Our first round of students will begin their trade training. *This will be a 40 hour work week. The work week will be broken down between 3 days of workforce/trade development and 2 days of supportive services. Supportive services will include: continued GED prep and other certifications, financial training, wellness with Mercy Med, Bible study, and life/family coaching with Right From the Start.*

December 2021

- Our first round of students will complete the paid internship program and will begin seeking employment within the private sector of Columbus, GA.
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BUDGET

Students will start at minimum wage (\$7.25) for the first 8 weeks of in-classroom training. When interns successfully complete the requirements associated with the Jobs for Life curriculum and begin their trade training they will receive an increase in pay (\$9/hr). Interns will undergo quarterly evaluations giving them the opportunity for pay raises based upon favorable evaluations.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
Part-time Program Director	1		\$ 25,000
Part-time Student Coordinator	1		\$ 25,000
Full-Time Contractor (leads projects and trains interns 3 days/wk)	1		\$ 50,000
Subsidies to pay for interns (2 months of minimum wage, 10 months at \$9/hr)	20		\$ 322,800
Total cost of program			\$ 422,800
*Potential Income to help offset the cost (sell or rent properties that are renovated). <i>This is the goal by year 2 of the program.</i>	3	\$ 70,000	\$ 210,000
Total cost of program (including offset of potential income)			\$ 212,800

LONG TERM GOALS

Develop a formal partnership with Columbus Technical College in order to access federal or state level grant funding that would then be used to cover the cost of the Truth Spring Trade School (WIOA).

Invest in a company in order to bring in jobs, income, and services (*potentially in the Might As Well building*) into the North Highland community.

- Access foundation and government funds in order to help pay for the predevelopment costs for the business.
- Use the equity we have in the new company to leverage a commitment from the company to help pay for/ support the cost of the Truth Spring Trade School and/or Truth Spring Early Learning Center.

Use this community based “trade school” model in other parts of the city of Columbus in order to accurately and effectively address chronic unemployment and poverty.