



FACES OF HOPE

Initiative to Build The Hope Center for Families



**EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO ACHIEVE AND SUSTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY
WITH THE LIFE SKILLS, WORK SKILLS, AND CHARACTER TO SUCCEED.**



THE HOPE CENTER FOR FAMILIES

An initiative of the Omega Community Development Corporation (CDC)
to empower low-income individuals and families of greater Dayton
to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency with the life skills, work skills,
and character to succeed.

MISSION

**Collaborating to transform the community and empower families
to experience a successful and self-sufficient way of life
through perseverance that brings forth
hope, achievement, and the presence of justice.**



ABOUT OMEGA CDC

The Omega Community Development Corporation (CDC) is a community-based, 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization that focuses on three aspects of community development: youth development, family development, and economic development. Founded in 1999, it is the sister organization, social services and economic development arm of the Omega Baptist Church.

With a track record of success in dealing with community-wide issues, such as joblessness, gun violence, illiteracy, and education – Omega CDC is ready to use its reach, resources, and network of community partners to transform the face of poverty in Northwest Dayton.

For more information regarding the achievements and impact of the Omega CDC and the Omega Baptist Church visit:

www.omegacdc.org **www.omegabaptist.org**

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For more than 25 years, Vanessa and Daryl Ward have been the faces of hope to families and individuals struggling to break the cycle of poverty, overcome adversity, or who simply need a helping hand.

As pastors of the Omega Baptist Church, community leaders, and social justice warriors - the Wards extend life-giving hope that evokes strong trust and confident expectations. The Hope Center is the culmination of their life's work. It is their legacy to the community.



To tackle today's issues facing adults and children in Northwest Dayton and the Miami Valley, it is this type of hope that is needed to truly change lives and impact the economic and social needs of our community.

Grounded in faith, the Wards have catalyzed a team of community leaders and change-agents committed to creating The Hope Center for Families.



The Hope Center for Families will be located on the 30-acre Harvard Campus in Northwest Dayton, on grounds designed by the nationally acclaimed Olmsted Brothers and also home to the former United Theological Seminary. As faithful stewards with an unwavering belief that something different needs to be developed to see transformational changes, Omega Baptist Church donated this beautiful piece of property in the heart of an extremely underserved and vulnerable neighborhood. The property value is close to \$5 million.

The Hope Center for Families has been a labor of love and commitment. The plan for the Center was created with regional governments and institutions, including the City of Dayton, Montgomery County, the University of Dayton, Wright State University, Sinclair Community College, private and public companies, and various nonprofits and social agencies throughout the Miami Valley. More than 30 regional leaders and another 15 key stakeholders have been involved in preparing the plan.

TRANSFORMATION

REQUIRES MORE

The face of poverty is complex. Despite existing services for jobs, health, and education, the facts tell us something different. And hidden behind the numbers, is the raw truth of the devastating impact.

While serving the entire region, the neighborhoods primarily served by the Omega Hope Center for Families include a population of approximately 26,000 people facing many challenges:

Median family income is

\$36,191



Only **30%** are high school graduates

30% live below the poverty level

20% are single moms

15% of all births are from teenage mothers

More staggering facts:

- 55.9% of children in Dayton live below the poverty level
- Children remain the poorest age group – children of color and those under five are the poorest
- Nationwide more than one in five infants, toddlers, and preschoolers were poor during their years of greatest brain development and vulnerability
- African-American children are the most vulnerable - living in extreme poverty
- Poor children are more likely to go hungry, which is associated with lower reading and math scores, greater physical and mental health problems, higher incidence of emotional and behavioral problems, and a greater chance of obesity
- Forty-five percent of people who spent at least half of their childhood in poverty were poor at age 35
- The longer a child is poor, the greater the risk of poverty in adulthood and experiencing poverty as a child also increases the likelihood of lifelong health problems and involvement in the criminal justice system

The face of poverty in our community comes at a high economic price with unemployment, soaring healthcare costs, crime, and hopelessness.

THIS IS WHY A DIFFERENT APPROACH IS NEEDED.



MORE THAN A BUILDING

More than a building, the Hope Center will provide an onramp to changing lives by addressing key areas:



INCOME STABILITY
through workplace
development



HEALTH AND SAFETY
through health and
wellness programs



STUDENT READINESS
through a five-star
preschool program

By adopting a proven, forward-thinking holistic model, addressing the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual aspects of one's life – we will conquer the affects of poverty.

Walk with us as we cast our vision to raise \$10 million - to be divided into two or three phases - to build a 25,000 square-foot facility, as well as develop programming for workforce development, education, and health and wellness.

We are on a quest to ignite hope in the faces of thousands in our community.

THE HOPE CENTER FOR FAMILIES

AN EXPERIENCE OF HOPE

The Hope Center will be a place of hope and rejuvenation, an anchor in Northwest Dayton. We will be a hub in the community to provide unique services, and a bridge to community resources. We will walk side by side with our clients.

Change happens when people feel comfortable, knowing they will receive assistance from trusted sources genuinely concerned for their wellbeing.

Our purpose is to empower lives through the teaching and modeling of core virtues that enable individuals and families to endure and succeed. These virtues, defined as Character, support the development of oneself through introspection and active engagement of living life with clear purpose and execution with boundaries. Gaining knowledge and experience in the discernment of right and wrong and the maturing of courage to act upon that knowledge.



The following Guiding Principles will guide the development of the services of the Hope Center for Families and its partners. They will be reinforced consistently through the Center's efforts. These arise from Omega's 25-year history of developing people and communities.

Guiding Principles



- Respect for others
- Give back to the community
- Honesty and Integrity
- Persistence
- Tolerance
- Gratitude
- Hard Work
- Self-Awareness/Cultural Awareness & Pride
- Conscientiousness
- Confidence
- Curiosity

PILLARS OF HOPE

Workforce Development. Health. Education.

The Hope Center for Families will stand on these three pillars of hope. When intertwined, each pillar impacts sustainable behavioral change often not seen in an existing fragmented and sometimes dehumanizing system. The strength of each pillar is girded in the foundation of compassion, advocacy and opportunity. Each program will be led by experts in their field and utilize key partnerships in the community.

Workforce Development

Job loss. Underemployed. Lack of skills. Lack of confidence. Plunging self-esteem. Some were born into poverty. Some slipped from upper-middle and middle income levels into the throws of poverty when the recession hit.

Our workforce development program will be designed to overcome the numerous barriers people are facing that prevent them from becoming job-ready, and from taking advantage of existing job development programs. These barriers may include: literacy, basic education, skills training, addiction, and physiological conditions.

“Unemployment is an assault on one’s dignity. All of these barriers may cause unemployed people to lose their sense of urgency and empowerment, something that most working residents take for granted. This creates the greatest challenge to public policy, but it is one for which there are proven solutions.”



Most jobless and underemployed residents have more obstacles to full employment than occupational skills. Major obstacles to employment are lack of child care, lack of literacy and basic adult education, soft skills, lack of transportation, addiction issues, and barriers to hiring citizens returning from prison.

The Hope Center for Families will fill in the gaps, and partner with existing workforce development programs such as the Montgomery County Job Bank. We will work with hundreds of individuals one on one – listening to their needs, setting goals, and putting together an action plan for income stability. Through intense mentoring and coaching we will address the complexities of their circumstances and help lift them out of the grips of poverty with dignity and respect. We estimate serving hundreds more through workshops. We want more for these willing workers than a minimum wage job.

PILLARS OF HOPE

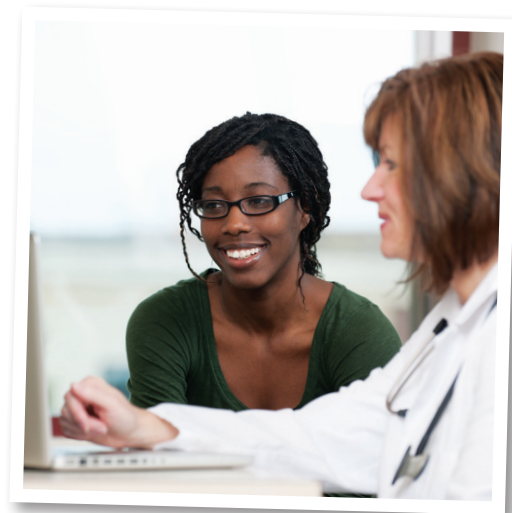
Workforce Development. Health. Education.

Health

Poverty doesn't just mean trouble making ends meet and having few assets. According to data from the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, Americans in poverty are more likely to suffer from a variety of chronic health problems, both psychological and physical.

The Hope Center for Families will strive to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities that plague those in poverty while reducing violence in the neighborhood. Community engagement and outreach will be the core strategy utilized, with a staffing model of 1:25 of case managers and coordinators to program participants. Our programs will align with local health institutions' execution of the Affordable Care Act and population health management.

Our goal will be to promote access and awareness to wellness, health care, and behavioral health resources through collaborative partnerships with health care providers and hospitals.



“Children living in poor communities are often underprepared for school, according to a 2012 study by the Brookings Institution. Their parents tend to be poorly educated and may struggle with health problems, both of which can interfere with their ability to prepare their children for school. Some poor parents may have deficits in parenting skills, struggle with addiction or have employment problems that interfere with their ability to care for their children. This lack of preparation for school means that teachers may have to spend extra time teaching students basic skills.”

Education

“A child born into poverty has fewer chances to move into the middle class given all the disadvantages poverty heaps on a young life, both mentally and physically.”

Poverty hurts children – destroying their dreams, hopes, and opportunities. Poor children suffer a 30 million-word interaction gap by age 3 and are less likely to enter school ready to learn and to graduate from high school.

Child poverty increases the risk of unemployment and economic hardship in adulthood.

Starting with early childhood development, the Hope Center for Families will maintain a five-star childcare center, serving over 100 toddlers and preschool children.

The center will offer afterschool mentoring programs as well as services to reach the second generation. Fifty to one hundred parents and guardians of children each year will benefit from tools to equip them in managing households, maintaining marriages, and raising children.

The enduring impact of the Hope Center focus on academic success is to provide a solid foundation and supports to help children to grow up and achieve economic success so that their children are not born into poverty and the cycle of poverty is broken.



BIGGER VISION

Our long-term vision for the entire 30-acre campus is to include senior housing, outdoor recreation opportunities, and spiritual reinforcement.



Become a FACE OF HOPE

Join us on our mission to break the cycle of poverty and bring hope to the faces of thousands of adults and children in our community.

The exploration of our \$10 million initiative includes:

- ✓ Site development
- ✓ Construction of the main 25,000 square-foot facility for the core programs of The Hope Center for Families including:
 - ★ Five-star preschool for 100 students
 - ★ Commercial grade kitchen for food services, employment opportunities for charter schools or agencies, nutrition classes for health, and more
 - ★ Flexible space for mentoring, coaching, work, and health initiatives
 - ★ Open space for fellowship
 - ★ Computer area
- ✓ Employment training opportunities for the unemployed and the underemployed
- ✓ Tools and resources including computers, books, equipment
- ✓ Operations for programs, partnership development, experts in program fields
- ✓ Flexibility in design for program growth and program builds to meet other community needs
- ✓ Technology and infrastructure



**Through public and private dollars
The Hope Center for Families will be
a sustainable organization.**

It is through the giving and receiving that true hope reaches its full potential
- changing lives and communities one face at a time.

Won't you become a Face of Hope for the Faces who Need Hope?

**JOIN US
ON OUR QUEST.**

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