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\$10.5 Million in New Market Tax Credits Awarded for Reconciliation Services “Reveal Strength” Capital Campaign Project on Troost Ave.

Kansas City, MO (September 8, 2022) -- Reconciliation Service [RS] received a long awaited boost to fund their community-focussed Reveal Strength Capital Campaign to renovate their aging building on Troost Avenue in Kansas City, MO, with \$10.5 million secured in New Market Tax Credits (NMTC) awarded on August 26, 2022.

Sunflower Development Group, who consulted on the New Market Tax Credit initiative, helped secure an \$8.5 million allocation from Enterprise Bank & Trust and another \$2 million allocation from Capital One Bank. Those allocations yielded more than \$3 million in equity towards the Reveal Strength Project for RS. These types of credits are designed to provide private-capital gap financing for commercial projects that stimulate economic growth in low-income areas.

This \$14.9 million overall capital campaign project will increase access to critical social and mental health services, expand Thelma’s Kitchen (KC’s only donate-what-you-can cafe), and create social and economic opportunities to help level the playing field for neighbors who have long been under-resourced.

"We could not be more grateful for the extreme generosity of so many involved in this project! This is an important moment not only for Reconciliation Services but, most especially, for the thousands of low-income neighbors struggling to survive and succeed that we serve," said Fr. Justin Mathews, CEO and Executive Director of Reconciliation Services. "Once complete, this building will be a beacon for racial and economic reconciliation in Kansas City, another step towards transforming Troost from a dividing line into a gathering place to reveal the strength of all. While Troost is developing fast, this project will ensure that all of our neighbors are still prioritized, welcomed, and included."

Not only does the NMTC allocation help offset the high cost of construction on RS’ historic building, allowing for increased capacity to offer social and mental health supports, but it secures deeper investment in a part of Kansas City that has struggled to grow economically.

"Sunflower Development Group couldn’t have been more honored to raise over \$3 million in New Market Tax Credit equity for the Reconciliation Services project," said Chris Vukas, Director

of New Market Tax Credits/Special Projects for Sunflower Development Group. “It has been an amazing experience to be part of such a dedicated team that worked tirelessly to not only provide continual mental health and other social services through a pandemic, but also raise millions of dollars through its capital campaign in the process. The improved Reconciliation Services building will continue to be an incredibly important piece of a more equitable Troost Ave. corridor and Sunflower Development Group is fortunate to be a part of its continued revitalization“

The Project on the corner of 31st St. and Troost Ave. has already completed the demolition phase and is now beginning the build back. The grand reopening of the building, which includes the reopening of Thelma’s Kitchen, is planned for the 4th quarter of 2023.

Program expansion & systems upgrades will include:

- Doubling social services and therapy program spaces
- Expanding and reopening Thelma’s Kitchen and adding economic community growth through jobs and workforce development in the cafe and through Thelma’s Box Lunch Catering
- Modernizing safety and fire systems
- An outdoor Therapy Garden on the new 5th floor
- Increasing ADA accessibility, including a modern elevator (the current one is manually operated by a switch)
- Increasing sustainability & adding solar power

The project is nearing its fundraising goal with also receiving the \$4 million pledged from the Sunderland Foundation. Additional supporters include: Hall Family Foundation, Mabee Foundation, Kao Family Foundation, Wiley Foundation, Francis Family Foundation, Kirk Family Foundation, H&R Block Foundation, Evergy, and many more individual and foundation supporters.

RS’ construction and design team for this project includes Straub Construction in partnership with LM2, an African American, woman-owned construction company; MC Realty as Owner’s Representative; and BNIM Architects. This project is the culmination of a neighborhood listening campaign and in alignment with the Revitalization Scenario for the 31st & Troost KC-CUR Priority Area, which “reflects a comprehensive, stakeholder-driven vision that integrates with existing plans and initiatives, identifies catalytic projects and implementation strategies, and accelerates redevelopment to support a long-term equitable, diverse and livable community.”

Campaign video, photos, and more info can be found at: RevealStrength.org

>> Reconciliation Services has served alongside neighbors in the urban core of Kansas City, MO, for 30+ years. Our programs strategically address community needs for affordable food access, safe environments to gather to combat social isolation and increase community engagement, and increased access to social and mental health services that lead to improved health and self-sufficiency.