

INTRODUCING: THE ROCK

West Side Youth and Community Development Center

***“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor...They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated...”
Is. 61:1-4***



Just beyond the shadows of exciting new developments and thriving economic opportunities in the West Side of Grand Rapids lies a beautiful neighborhood that is home to thousands of individuals who still live in the crippling grip of poverty¹. Many of these individuals are youth that have limited access to the support and resources that are necessary to help them thrive. Yet, we believe that these youth are a critical resource to the revitalization of our community. Given adequate support, access to necessary resources, and surrounded by a Christian community that believes in them, we believe that our youth can help catalyze a change toward a thriving community.

This belief is at the heart of the Rock. Located right in the heart of the West Side, in an old building that was once home to a liquor store and an adult novelties store, the Rock will be a Christ-centered youth center that will serve some of the most vulnerable youth of our neighborhood. This building that has historically embodied the brokenness that many of our neighbors face every day will soon be a place of hope in which we will work to empower the youth of the West Side to be a part of the change that they want to see.

The Rock is located in a very strategic location just down the hill from Union High School and Westwood Middle School², right on Bridge Street where hundreds of students walk past every single day on their way

¹ Approximately 7,000 people in the JBAN and WGNO neighborhoods live at or below the poverty line, per the Johnson Center Community Research Institute.

² According to school staff, approximately 75% of the 325 Westwood students and 75% of the 1,100 Union students live within the JBAN and WGNO neighborhoods.

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home from school. This prime location will put us in direct contact with these students that have very few other safe and supportive places to hang out after school.

The Rock will be home to a collaborative effort aimed at supporting and empowering local youth. In addition to being a drop-in center open to all students, we will work to expand our existing Resurgence after-school movement. In partnership with Westwood Middle School, YFC Campus Life and Crosswinds Church, Resurgence will engage over 150 Westwood students per year in structured programming that works toward the spiritual, academic, and social development of middle school students. This critical collaborative effort is the only after-school programming currently available for Westwood students³. In addition, we will continue to work with the Grand Rapids Initiative for Leaders to be a West Side hub for high school student leadership development in their GRIL-U program.

The Rock will also give the BSHOP an increased capacity to expand our impact through our ongoing summer Immersion and Bridge Street Mission School initiatives.

I would like to personally invite you to partner with us in making this exciting project a reality. Your partnership will have a direct impact on the lives of some of the most vulnerable youth in the West Side of Grand Rapids, giving them the opportunity to experience God's love, and empower them to be the change makers in this neighborhood.

If you have any questions or would like to come see our project in person, please feel free to contact me directly.

Financial summary:

1034 Bridge Purchase Price:	\$375,000
Renovation costs:	\$500,000 (estimated)
Total:	\$875,000

Raised To-Date:

Individual Gifts:	\$75,000
Foundation Gifts:	\$2,000
Residential Property Sales	\$188,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$265,000</u>

Total project Remaining \$610,000

Timeline:

November 2018 – Finalize property acquisition
January 2019 – Complete Design and permitting process
February 2019 – Begin Construction
May 2019 – Complete Youth/Community Center
September 2019 – Complete Office space

³ Per the 2016-2017 Westwood annual report, the school was designated as a TSI school according to the ESSA.

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Ryan

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