



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Community First Fund Announces  
\$5 Million New Markets Tax Credit Allocation for  
Salvation Army Build Project**

**(Harrisburg, PA):** Community First Fund is pleased to formally announce a substantial New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) allocation to support a build project for one of the Harrisburg area's major nonprofit organizations.

The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region will receive a \$5 million New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) allocation from Community First Fund for the construction of a new, multi-use service and worship center which will be located at 506 South 29th Street in Harrisburg. The new expanded location will allow the Army to provide vital human services to individuals and families living in each organization's target area, which includes Dauphin, Cumberland, and Perry Counties. The services it provides includes food and basic needs assistance, self-sufficiency mentoring, and programs for children and youth.

"We are grateful to Community First Fund for their provision of a New Market Tax Credit allocation to our capital project," says Major John Griner, Corps Officer, The Salvation Army Harrisburg. "Their investment and partnership with us will make our plans and vision a reality for The Salvation Army and the thousands of individuals, families and children we serve each year."

The 38,700 square foot facility will be built on a five acre site which formerly held a Weis Markets store. This new building will allow the Army to serve approximately 20,000 persons annually and will include a service and worship center, commercial kitchen, choice pantry, family services suite with private intake offices, client reception and information center, and classrooms for various programs.

A dedicated education wing will include multi-use classrooms for youth programs, adult education, and career training programs, Pre-K classrooms with a secure play area, a nutrition education kitchen, gymnasium, and work stations and private offices for education staff.

Currently, the Army conducts many of its youth programs at more than 20 local schools and other locations. With the new, expanded location, the Army will be able to provide much needed academic and personal support to over 2,800 children annually in one central location. The

certified Pre-K classrooms at this facility will fulfill the need for many underserved families that are on waiting lists at overcrowded area Head Start programs.

Additionally, the administration and volunteer wing of the new headquarters will hold offices and conference rooms, an emergency services office and vehicle garage, and a warehouse for food storage and program supplies with a loading dock to accommodate delivery trucks. The design also includes outdoor areas with sport and recreation fields, children’s playground and pavilion, a “teaching” vegetable garden, and wooded nature trail.

“The Salvation Army provides vital services to those that need it most,” says Dan Betancourt, CEO of Community First Fund. “Early childhood education, workforce development, self-sufficiency mentoring, and the other programs they offer are critical to eliminating poverty and advancing opportunity. We are very pleased to support their efforts in making this project a reality. ”

This is the second project in Harrisburg to receive a NMTC allocation from Community First Fund. In 2015, WCI Partners received a \$6.75 million allocation for the redevelopment of two vacant midtown buildings into 41 apartments and 10,000 square feet of commercial space, primarily occupied by St@rtup Harrisburg. The \$5 million allocation announced today brings the total NMTC allocations that Community First Fund has awarded to projects in Harrisburg up to \$11.75 million.

The New Market Tax Credit Program (NMTC Program) is a prospective source of funding for the construction or major improvement of a commercial building in qualified census tracts, specifically where the poverty rate is at least 20% of the community. It incentivizes investments in these low-income communities through a federal tax credit. The program is directed by the US Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund and allocated by local Community Development Entities (CDEs) across the United States. Community First Fund is one of those CDE’s and has provided \$90 million in New Market Tax Credits to revitalize low-income communities throughout central Pennsylvania since 2013.

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### **About Community First Fund**

Community First Fund is the premier economic development organization serving the low income communities of central and eastern Pennsylvania. The 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization provides loan capital to businesses, real estate developers, and community support organizations throughout the region. Since 1992, Community First Fund has made more than 1650 loans and investments totaling over \$207 million to businesses, affordable housing and community based developers, and community based programs and initiatives. Get more information on Community First Fund at [www.communityfirstfund.org](http://www.communityfirstfund.org).