

Courtney Jordan Foundation Celebrates 15 Years of Impact with Launch of Project Cornerstone America:

A Multimillion-Dollar Initiative to Empower Underserved Communities



Durham, North Carolina Feb 3, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - The **Courtney Jordan Foundation (CJF)**, a leading global force in philanthropy, is celebrating **15 years** of transformative community impact. With a renewed commitment to ending poverty through **education, entrepreneurship, and housing**, **CJF America** is excited to announce the launch of **Project Cornerstone America**—a multimillion-dollar initiative designed to reinvigorate underserved neighborhoods by providing a network of **Smart Community Centers** that will offer education, workforce training, financial literacy, and critical community services.

These centers will become hubs of opportunity, offering local residents access to the tools they need to thrive, including **CJF's Code School**, **Durham Youth Alliance (DYA)** programs, and **financial literacy workshops**. **CJF America** has already made significant strides, with **over \$600,000 invested** in its first center in rural North Carolina. **Project Cornerstone America** represents the next chapter in **CJF's** expansion efforts to bring accessible, high-impact services to the people who need them the most.

“The cornerstone of real, lasting change is providing people with access to education and the tools to build sustainable futures. **Project Cornerstone America** is about creating spaces for that transformation,” said **Courtney Jordan**, founder of the **Courtney Jordan Foundation**. “We are here to empower communities, not just with financial support, but with lasting partnerships that create new opportunities for generations to come.”

Programs That Build Futures

At the heart of the **Smart Community Centers** will be key programs that offer pathways to self-sufficiency and success:

- **CJF Code School:** The **CJF Code School** equips students with coding skills for high-demand jobs in tech. The eight-week program guarantees job placement upon completion, ensuring students leave with both the skills and resources to jumpstart their careers in the digital world.
- **Durham Youth Alliance (DYA):** **DYA** empowers Durham's youth through mentorship, education, and innovative programming. By shaping the future of young people in the community, **DYA** plays a pivotal role in offering guidance, resources, and opportunities.
- **StartUP Fund:** The **CJF America Investment Fund (StartUP Fund)** is fueling small businesses and entrepreneurs with over \$20 million in investments. This fund supports innovative ideas that aim to make a meaningful impact in underserved communities.
- **Cornerstone Program:** Through the **Cornerstone Program**, **CJF America** is creating resilient communities by offering essential services such as workforce readiness, GED programs, literacy support, and access to mobile health clinics, all designed to meet the needs of underserved individuals and families.

“The vision behind **Project Cornerstone America** is to create thriving, self-sufficient communities where everyone, regardless of their background or circumstance, has the chance to succeed,” said **Kristen Picot**, President of North American Operations for **CJF**. “Through this initiative, we’re not just offering temporary solutions—we’re creating sustainable, long-term pathways to opportunity that will make a difference for years to come.”

Partnerships for Progress

While **CJF America** has made remarkable progress, including the opening of its first **Smart Community Center** in rural North Carolina, the foundation is focused on continuing to grow and

expand its programs into new regions. By partnering with local organizations, businesses, and community leaders, **CJF America** is ensuring that **Project Cornerstone America** will have a lasting impact on the communities it serves.

“We believe that no one should be left behind,” said **Nick Gallardo**, Chief Financial Officer of **CJF**. “By working alongside community partners, we are creating spaces where opportunity, education, and empowerment can flourish. It’s not just about building physical spaces—it’s about building stronger communities.”

A Vision of Unity and Opportunity

CJF America is committed to a philosophy of community support where each individual has the chance to achieve their potential. The goal of **Project Cornerstone America** is to create environments that help people feel seen, heard, and valued, regardless of where they come from.

“We are proud of the work we’ve already done, but we’re just getting started,” said **Rhoda Hormenoo**, Senior Vice President of Special Programs and Executive in Charge of **Project Cornerstone America**. “We’re in the process of expanding our efforts, bringing new partners into the fold, and ensuring that our programs are accessible to the communities that need them most.”

Through this initiative, **CJF America** continues to lead by example in the fight against poverty, showing that true community development comes from collaboration, innovation, and a relentless dedication to positive change.

About Courtney Jordan Foundation (CJF)

Founded in 2009, the **Courtney Jordan Foundation (CJF)** is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty through education, entrepreneurship, and community development. With a strong focus on sustainable solutions, the foundation has been at the forefront of creating lasting change for underserved communities globally. Its initiatives include **Project Cornerstone America**, **Sunflower Communities**, and various programs focused on youth development, workforce readiness, and affordable housing. Through these efforts, **CJF** continues to empower individuals and families to achieve long-term success and financial stability.

For more information about **Project Cornerstone America** and how you can get involved, visit cjfamerica.org

Media Contact:

Reagan Cartwright

Director of External Communications

CJF America

Email: rcartwright@cjfamerica.org

Phone: 919-808-5723

Media Contact

The Courtney Jordan Foundation (CJF)

*****@cjfamerica.org

919-808-5723

Source : Business

[See on IssueWire](#)