



JOB TRAINING **INITIATIVES**



EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Building a Better Tomorrow through Connections

Having a space where residents can thrive while they focus on their future is vital. That's why as part of Transforming Western KCDC plans to construct a Connections Building right in the heart of the historic Western Heights community, which will allow residents the opportunity to express their creativity and build a better tomorrow for them and their family. Partner agencies Junior Achievement and Real Good Kitchen will play key roles in helping residents prepare for their future.

Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement (JA) is the nation's largest organization committed to empowering youth with the knowledge and skills needed to own their economic success, plans for the future and academic gains. JA's programs ignite the spark in young people to realize opportunities and realities of work and life in the 21st century.

Core Content Areas

- Work readiness
- Entrepreneurship
- Financial literacy

Projected Totals

2,650

unique youths estimated served each
year

4,200

visits to the proposed commercial
storefront each year



Getting Youth Valuable Experience

JA will operate a youth entrepreneurship center with on-site programming for all eighth-grade classes in Knox County and surrounding counties. The location will also coordinate and serve as an education access point for entrepreneurship clubs from two inner-city high schools.

Youth will experience JA Finance Park, which engages middle-schoolers for life and work in the real world by aligning the realities of life and personal choices with financial stability, connecting education and career decisions with income expectations, and experiencing firsthand what it takes to make it. Additionally, youth will experience the Dream Accelerator, an interactive and responsive career exploration experience that inspires high-schoolers to develop a plan to pursue a meaningful career and future.

A commercial storefront will be available for local individuals and startups to sell their wares.



TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE

What's Needed

\$7 Million

to construct each of the two unique
spaces in the Connections Building

Mastering the Culinary Arts

Real Good Kitchen

Real Good Kitchen (RGK) combines a food business incubator with a commercial kitchen, and breaks down barriers for entrepreneurs looking to start and grow their own food businesses in Knoxville. The local nonprofit envisions a greater equity, opportunity and financial security for people through food business ownership.

Western Heights will be the second location for RGK.

Projected Totals

600

unique individuals participating in
job training each year

308

unique individuals starting up a micro-
and food-business each year

1,150

unique individuals in cooking classes,
accessing affordable healthy food

Purpose

- Increasing access
- Community partnerships
- Business mentoring & resources

Making a Difference through Food

RGK will develop a space featuring a commercial kitchen, work stations and commercial equipment, dry, cold and frozen storage, a strong network of sales opportunities, mentoring and business development support, manufacturing and CPG expertise, group learning and business resources, and technical assistance.

The two primary goals of this space will be job training and the development of new food entrepreneurs interested in developing food business startups.

RGK will provide goods and services to the broader community to improve health and wellness through increased healthy food access, including a pay-what-you-can restaurant and a Grab-and-Go Market for visitors to the community's new Destination Park and Plaza.

RGK will also sponsor health and nutrition cooking classes and other events in its commercial kitchen to improve eating habits among the community at large.



901 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917
865-403-1100
www.kcdc.org

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