



# Neu-Life Community Development

Creating an innovative place for  
innovative people

# Welcome!

## *Introductions*

**Jody Rhodes**, MS, CYC-P

Executive Director, Neu-Life Community Development  
President, ACYCP, Association of Child and Youth Care  
Professionals

**Chanda Harris**, Director of Impact & Alumni of Neu-Life





# Better Futures Start Here

- Neu-Life is one of the state's only youth-serving agencies accredited as a Child and Youth Development program from the National Council on Accreditation (COA).
- **Our priority is to give our young people the skills and resources they need to achieve their best possible life.** We take a holistic, research-based, community-centric approach that builds skills and resiliency while exposing our youth to opportunities in the larger world.

# 23+ Years of Creating a New Path for Urban Youth

- We serve more than 3,000 unduplicated young people annually.
- Our families live in two of Milwaukee's most distressed zip codes where 2/3 of children live in poverty.
- 100% of programs are provided at no out-of-pocket costs to families.
- 85% of Neu-Life staff are people of color.
- 64% of our staff are alums of Neu-Life Community Development.



# Neu-Life: Creating a Foundation for Life



## Programs:

- After School & Summer Youth Development
- Prevention Education
- Workforce Development

## Main Initiatives:

- Staff Pipeline
- Farmfork: Urban Agriculture & Culinary
- Student Advocate Program: Mentoring
- Arts Education
- Neu-STEPP: Trafficking Prevention
- Neu-Media



# Deep Dive

## ***The Youth Innovation Center Model***

**Our teen worker model is recognized as a best practice throughout the city, and the Youth Work**

**Innovation Center** is an expansion of that program.

We engage middle and high school students in project-based programming to help prepare them for the workforce while training the next generation of Youth Workers.

## ***Three Main Components***

- 1.) Middle School Workers
- 2.) High School Workers
- 3.) Youth Work Training Center

# *Middle School Workers*





# High School Teen Workers



# *Youth Worker Training Center*



# Tough Times Don't End at Adulthood



**Things don't always go well for our young people as they graduate from the circle of nurturing support they find at Neu-Life.**

- For some, losing the day-to-day safety net of positive mentors and peers means they don't have the support they need to say “No” to unhealthy choices.
- For others, the reality of providing for themselves leaves them stressed and overwhelmed. They work hard, but they're exhausted and struggle to find a affordable place to live.

# Young Adults in Milwaukee Need Support

- 24% of Milwaukee's African American 16-24-year-olds in 2020 were "disconnected" -- neither working nor in school -- compared to 7% of white 16-24 year olds in Milwaukee and 12.6% of all young adults nationally.
- Such disconnection affects the ability of young adults to build financial stability and satisfying careers.
- Nationally, 48% of Black and 43% of Latinx young adult census respondents reporting difficulty meeting basic monthly expenses in 2020-2022 in contrast to 31% of white young adults.
- Supporting our Milwaukee young people as they transition to adulthood is critical to helping them build and sustain thriving lives.



# NeuVue: More Than A Building

*CREATING AN INNOVATIVE PLACE WHERE MILWAUKEE'S YOUTH CAN SOAR  
& THRIVE*

**N E U V U E**  
**VUE THE POSSIBILITIES**  
CREATING AN INNOVATIVE PLACE FOR INNOVATIVE PEOPLE

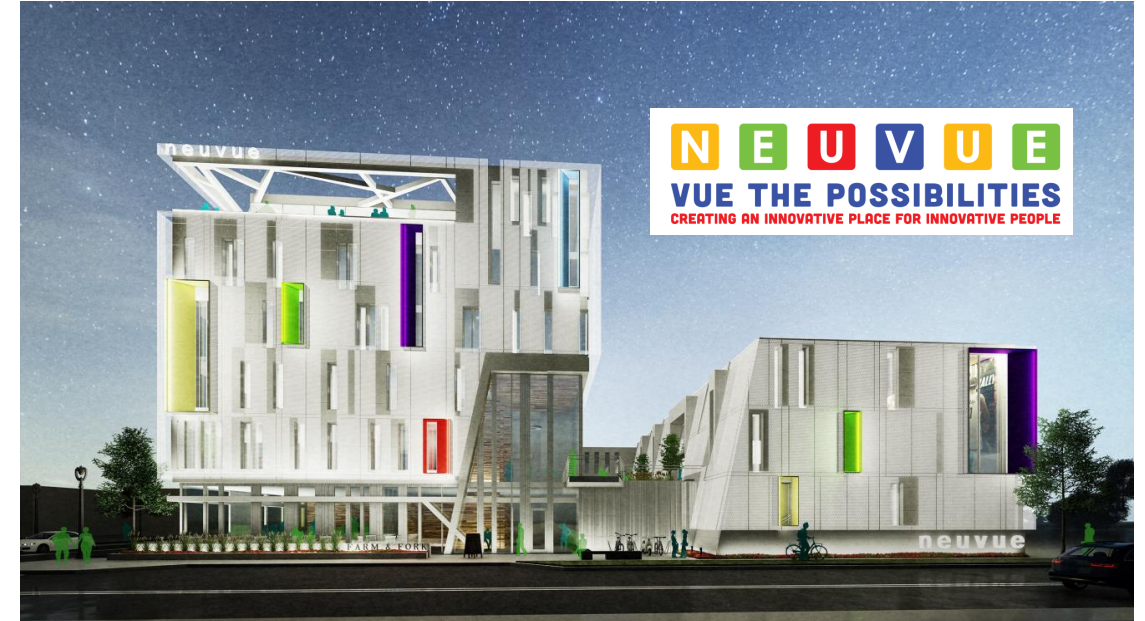
# NeuVue: Supportive Housing Model

- Mentorship
- Financial education and counseling
- Mental health support
- Supportive community of peers
- Post secondary education and career guidance
- Life Skills Program as needed



# NeuVue: 6-story Supportive Housing & Multi-Use Space

- 36 studio, one- & two-bedroom housing units
- Indoor gymnasium for athletic programs
- Expanded youth programming spaces
- Restaurant (partner operated) and event space
- Administrative offices for Neu-Life staff
- Rentable office spaces for non-profit partners
- Rentable shared spaces for one-time use
- Onsite Parking



The 106,050 square foot development is a self-sustaining multiuse space that will support young adults and help expand youth programming.

# NeuVue: Positive Community Culture

- Housing units will be dedicated for Neu-Life youth workers ages 18-24
- In addition, we will also have housing units available for youth workers from partner orgs, young professionals or students aligned with our community culture
- All renters will agree to NeuVue's community guidelines and engaging with our supportive services





Additional spaces will include rentable offices and meeting rooms for nonprofit partners.



NeuVue creates a safe, modern, and affordable housing option for our youth workers and Neu-Life alum





**NeuVue will include flexible event space and a green energy rooftop garden that offers a beautiful view of downtown and Fiserv Forum.**



# Neu-Vue will expand two of Neulife's amazing programs

## Opportunities for FarmFork

- **Open a new commercial learning kitchen** modeled after MATC's Culinary School
- **Increase the number of Neu-Life youth** participating in culinary arts education and training
- **Plant rooftop production gardens** that Farmfork youth will tend to and harvest
- **Practice culinary and hospitality skills** in the first floor Café and rooftop space



## Opportunities for NeuMedia:

- Expand our NeuMedia program from one to three learning studios
- Increase the number of Neu-Life youth learning media and production skills that will prepare them for jobs in a variety of creative fields.



# Expanded Youth Programming: Neu-Life Athletics

## NeuVue will create an opportunity to:

- Have a recreation space for our youth in our sports programs (*serves over 1,000 unduplicated youth a year*)
- Have a space for other organizations to rent the gym for sports and recreation programs (*serving/reaching even more youth*)
- A flexible large gym event space that can also be rented for events such as fundraisers, galas, award events and special events

NeuVue will include a 2-story gym for recreation and youth programming, along with a media center and culinary arts program.



# NeuVue: Centrally Located Near Educational & Job Opportunities

Located at 12th & Cherry Streets, NeuVue will be within walking distance to:

- Educational opportunities at MATC and Marquette University
- Downtown job opportunities including Fiserv Forum
- Milwaukee County social services and mental health services
- Neu-Life's main youth center





## Timeline for Project:

Fall 2025- Break Ground

*Goal Target:* \$6 million raised of the total \$13.5 project goal

Fall 2025- Fall 2027- Construction Timeline

*Goal Target:* Raise remaining \$7.5 million for the project







[www.neu-life.org/neuvue](http://www.neu-life.org/neuvue)

Jody Rhodes, Executive Director – [jody@neu-life.org](mailto:jody@neu-life.org) (414) 588-1589