

MY PROJECT USA ANNUAL REPORT



2017



MYProjectUSA.org

3036 SULLIVANT AVE. COLUMBUS, OH 43204
614-905-0977 | INFO@MYPROJECTUSA.ORG

FREE ESL Classes

for Somali Parents

Monday & Wednesday Evenings

6:00 - 8:00 pm @ Wedgewood Community Room
777 Wedgewood Rd. Columbus, OH 43228

Learn English for the Workplace

English that will help you find and keep a good job

Limited Seats.

Registration and Placement Tests on
Monday, October 2, 2017, 6:00 pm.

Questions: 614-209-3012 | info@MYProjectUSA.org

This project is made possible through the generous contributions of several organizations in support of the Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program.



MY Family Pantry

Every Saturday | 10am-1pm



Every Saturday, we give out an assortment of produce and dry foods.



Please bring proof of residency and one proof of identification for each household member. Thank you!



Location: MY Deah's
3036 Sullivant Ave
Columbus, OH 43228



Wedgewood Boys (ages 8-17):

JOIN THE BOY SCOUTS!



Join other Wedgewood leaders and help make your neighborhood a better place for all!



Fun Sports
Homework Help
Awesome Adventures
Healthy Body & Mind
Leadership Training
Weekly Meetings



For more information and registration, contact Samira Mohamud:

614-905-0977 | info@MYProjectUSA.org



This project is a joint venture of MY Project USA, The Boy Scouts of America and the City of Columbus. We will cover the cost of registration, uniform and field trips. Boys will be required to give 2-4 hours in community service every week.



SHOP FOR A CAUSE

MY Deah's Cash

MY DEAH'S CASH® IS A \$10 GIFT COUPON OF APPRECIATION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE, PUNCTUALITY & EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION OR LEADERSHIP. NO CASH BACK.

MY Deah's Cash® is not valid until approved by signature.

Redeemable in store only at 3036 Sullivant Ave. Columbus, OH 43228

VALID: JANUARY 1-APRIL 30, 2018



12345678

X Sign Here

COLUMBUS DADS MEETING FOR WEDGEWOOD KIDS

SATURDAY, SEP. 23RD, 1-5PM



LIVING DANGERS IN YOUR APARTMENT!

RODANTS!

- If rats enter your home they may carry parasites & diseases that are harmful.
- Eliminate debris such as garbage or compost piles & keeping the home clean will help get rid of them.



BEDBUGS!

- Bedbugs causes a lot of health effects including skin rashes & allergic symptoms.
- To get rid of bedbugs, clean bedding, linens & clothing in hot water followed with dryer.

COCKROACHES!

- Cockroaches carry bacteria that can contaminate your food and make you sick.
- They attracted to food that has been left out on the counter, dirty dishes & crumbs laying on the floor.



A CLEAN HOME IS A SAFE HOME

For more question contact Samira Mohamud: 614-905-0977

www.myprojectusa.org



WEDGEWOOD PARENTS' MEETING

Learn how to keep your children healthy, happy, strong & Safe!
FREE | Thursdays 6-8 p.m. @ Wedgewood Office | Interpreters provided

TOPICS:

Effective Parenting
Child Safety
Cultural Competency
Physical & Mental Health
Food & Nutrition

REGISTRATION:

Every Thursdays @ 6pm
Wedgewood Office
777 Wedgewood Dr.
Columbus, OH 43228

MY USA Question?
Contact:
614-905-0977
info@MYProjectUSA.org



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING. REPORT CRIMES SAFELY!

JOIN US TO KEEP OUR FAMILIES SAFE. HELP STOP DRUGS, GANGS & CRIMES

Join the relentless pursuit of a better tomorrow for our neighborhood. See something, say something. Report criminal offenders to local police and send the message crime will not be tolerated here! You can report crime information anonymously if you choose not to have your identity known within any of the below forums.

COLUMBUS POLICE PRIMARY CALL CENTER : 614 645-4545
Limited English speaking persons may request a translator (Say "I need a Somali or Mai-Mai translator")
Police dispatchers will arrange for you to talk to the proper detectives with translator assistance.

CRIME STOPPERS: 614 461-8477

WEB PAGE - STOPCRIME.ORG
Limited English speaking persons may go to "Submit a Tip" and click on "In Somali" to have reporting page translated to Somali

COLUMBUS POLICE HOME WEBPAGE: COLUMBUS.GOV/POLICE
Access the Columbus Division of Police home web page at Columbus.Gov/POLICE. Find "Report an Incident Online" and click on "Learn more" link.
Limited English speaking persons may click on "Select language" in upper right hand corner of screen for translation.

Columbus Police Narcotic's Tip Line: 614 645-4616
(English answering service for Narcotics specific tips)

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR



Wedgewood Became The Focal Point Of MY Project USA's Efforts in Combatting Drugs, Gangs, and Violence!

We Aim To Protect & Empower Both Youth & Parents In The Neighborhood

Dear Family,

My Project USA is a national initiative to combat drugs, gangs, violence, human trafficking, radicalization and other issues through social services and civic engagement. We are headquartered in Columbus and have been working in Hilltop area since 2015.

Due to the dense population of under-served Muslim refugees and immigrants in the Wedgewood Village Apartments, we chose it as our pilot neighborhood from the very beginning. But last year, due to several shootings and 7 homicides involving young Somali Muslims in this apartment complex, it became our top priority. I dropped every other commitment and focused on the Wedgewood only. By the grace of God, slowly but gradually, we are seeing the results of our hard labor. We have now been noticed by the authorities and media as well.

To protect and empower little children and youth in the neighborhoods, we have collaborated with the Boy Scouts of America, Wedgewood Middle School, Eakin Elementary school, Wedgewood Management, Hilltop Library and many other organizations that help us in different ways. Currently, we serve about 120 kids every week through our programs.

Our programs provide after school homework help, educational activities, reading program, scouting meetings and youth leadership meetings for students grades 3rd and up. Without our programs, many of these children would have no place to go. We make sure that these kids get the food and the tutoring help that they need to thrive and to do well in school. We also have Parent Development Programs three days a week. For parent programs we provide ESL classes and parenting workshops.

This is an humble report to give an idea to the community members and the government agencies to understand the scope and impact of the work we do at Wedgewood Apartments. We are proud and humble to see the great results of our hard work last year. We take pride in this work, because most of it has been done either by the volunteers or by the residents of the Hilltop/Wedgewood. All of our board members, including myself, work voluntarily. Only people that are hired and paid by our projects are the youth and parents that we are trying to protect and empower through our work.

We do not have enough words to express our gratitude to our youth, parents, clients, volunteers, community members, activists, community leaders, interfaith partners, public officials, agencies, partner organizations, donors, board members, trustees and all well-wishers - that have contributed to the tremendous success and growth of MY Project USA.

We encourage everyone to feel free to contact our office if they have any question or comments regarding this report. We highly believe in accountability and transparency in our work and we expect the same from our partners, government agencies and other organization.

Last but not least, this journey was not possible without your generous donations. Please continue to support us so we could serving our under-served communities on your behalf.

In Solidarity with Youth & Families,

Zerqa Abid,



Founder & Executive Director,
MY Project USA

#MYPROJECTISUSA

YEAR 2017 IN NUMBERS:

- 660,000+** Meals & Snacks Delivered
- 10,000+** Community Service Hours Contributed
- 30,000+** Individuals Served
- 2,500+** Gifts, Coats, Other Basic Supplies Passed
- 1,500+** Volunteers & Youth Activists Engaged
- 100+** Muslim Youth Leaders Trained
- 20+** Youth and Adults Trained & Employed
- 20** Social Services Projects Launched



#MYPROJECTISUSA

YEAR 2017 IN PROGRAMS

WE LAUNCHED & GREW:

- ✓ MY Family Pantry
- ✓ MY Soup Kitchen
- ✓ Wedgewood Kids Club
- ✓ Wedgewood Girls Club
- ✓ Wedgewood Reading Warriors
- ✓ Hilltop Tigers Soccer Team
- ✓ Wedgewood Boy Scouts Program
- ✓ Wedgewood Parents Workshops
- ✓ Wedgewood Resident Association
- ✓ Wedgewood Youth Leaders Programs



#MYPROJECTISUSA

IN 2017 MY PROJECT USA:

- ✓ Participated at Airport Rally Against Muslim Ban
- ✓ Started Columbus Unity Forum
- ✓ Organized Columbus Expanded Sanctuary Rallies
- ✓ Organized A Youth Empowerment Conference at Columbus State Community College
- ✓ Co-Found Hilltop Coalition For Stronger Neighborhood
- ✓ Co-Organized Hilltop Spruce Up Day
- ✓ Did Outreach at ISNA Annual Convention in Chicago
- ✓ Co-organized Columbus Feed the Hungry 2017
- ✓ Launched A Dayton Chapter
- ✓ Engaged hundreds of activists, community leaders, public officials & community members at different forums
- ✓ Trained and Empowered 100+ youth through different programs and initiatives



MY Project USA Has Impacted My Life Forever!

This organization gave me hope that my community can overcome hard times.

By Samira Mohamud,

Wedgewood Resident & Field Coordinator, MY Project USA

In 2017, there were 7 homicides and 17 shootings in my neighborhood, Wedgewood Village Apartments on the Westside of Columbus. Two people were murdered right in front of my building. Being a teenager and a sister of eleven siblings, I was so mortified, but Sr. Zerqa Abid and MY Project USA's team has kept me grounded and gave me hope that my community can overcome the hard times. They have taught me how to organize my community against crimes and how to uplift my neighborhood. MY Project USA has impacted my life forever!

Two years ago, I started a reading program with the help of my highschool friends. We knew the difficulties children face in our neighborhood. We wanted a safe place for the children to go after school because most of them would be locked out of their homes. Instead of being on the streets and in connection with the gang members, we made sure the Reading Warrior program would be a fun and safe place for them. We worked hard to help younger students with their homework and to increase the reading levels. It was great, but it was not enough to save all children in the neighborhood and to stop the crimes. We needed more help. We couldn't continue as volunteers forever. We had to start making some money to support our families and our education too.

That's where Sr. Zerqa stepped in. She took me and my friends under her wings. She appreciated our services, supported our Reading Program, and encouraged us to think outside the box. She empowered us with the leadership trainings and programs. She created safe spaces for us to vent our frustrations and brainstorm our ideas to do better. She would provide us with the support and resources needed to implement those ideas. She also created job opportunities for all of us. She would raise money and would pitch in from her own pocket to pay our salaries and stipends. She convinced Columbus City Council to help us through Boy Scouts Program.

Now, I work at MY Project USA as a Field Coordinator and a Program Leader to help people in my neighborhood get involved in the great initiative and to participate in everything MY Project USA provides. I worked alongside incredible young leaders and youth mentors who have encouraged me to do absolutely great things to help my community. There has been such a major impact on my community.

We have formed three youth-led committees in the neighborhood. These committees are aiming to keep youth away from drugs and gangs, help reduce the highschool drop-out rates and to improve the living situation of buildings through education and regular resident driven clean-ups. I lead the "Clean and Drug Free Building Initiative" and it is a learning and an empowering experience. Last but not least, MY Project USA has brought Columbus City Councilmembers, Columbus Police Division and many other influential people directly in touch with us the residents of Wedgewood. We got the direct support and guidance of Councilman Michael Stinziano, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brown, Commander Scott Hyland and many others because of MY Project USA. They have all impacted my life. Our lives.

I am so grateful to be a part of such an outstanding team and even more happy that I will continue to give back with MY Project



USA. We will continue to encourage and motivate more children in my neighborhood. We are very hopeful of what the future has in store for us because we know Wedgewood will become something great very soon with God and MY Project USA by it's side. I want to thank all of you for your support and for caring enough to invest in the Wedgewood youth and families.

MY Project USA's 2017 Fiscal Report

\$145,923.85 Spent To Protect & Empower Wedgewood Youth & Families in 2017

Here is a quick glimpse in our 2017 fiscal report. We take pride in the fact that most of our work has been done either by the volunteers or by the residents of the Hilltop/Wedgewood. All of our board members, including Zerqa Abid, work voluntarily. Only people that are hired and paid by our projects are the youth and parents that we are trying to protect and empower through our work. We were able to support 25 individuals on our payroll as full-time or part-time employees or youth on stipends. We are humbled to be able to support 25 households by creating employment opportunities for them.

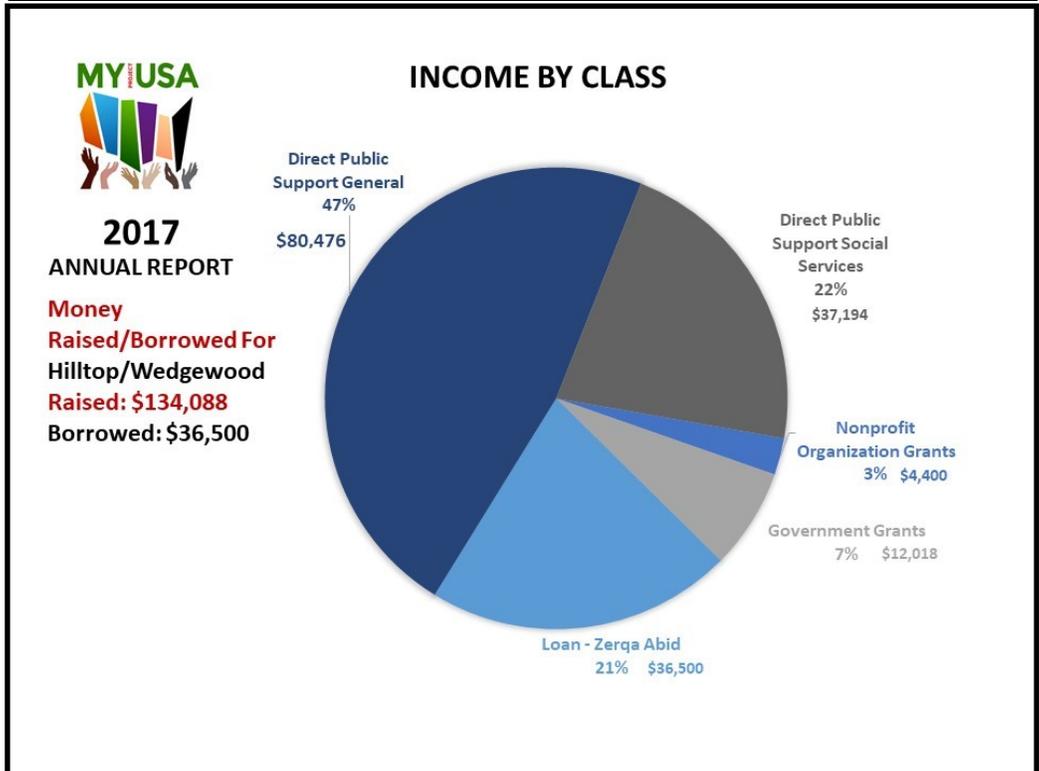
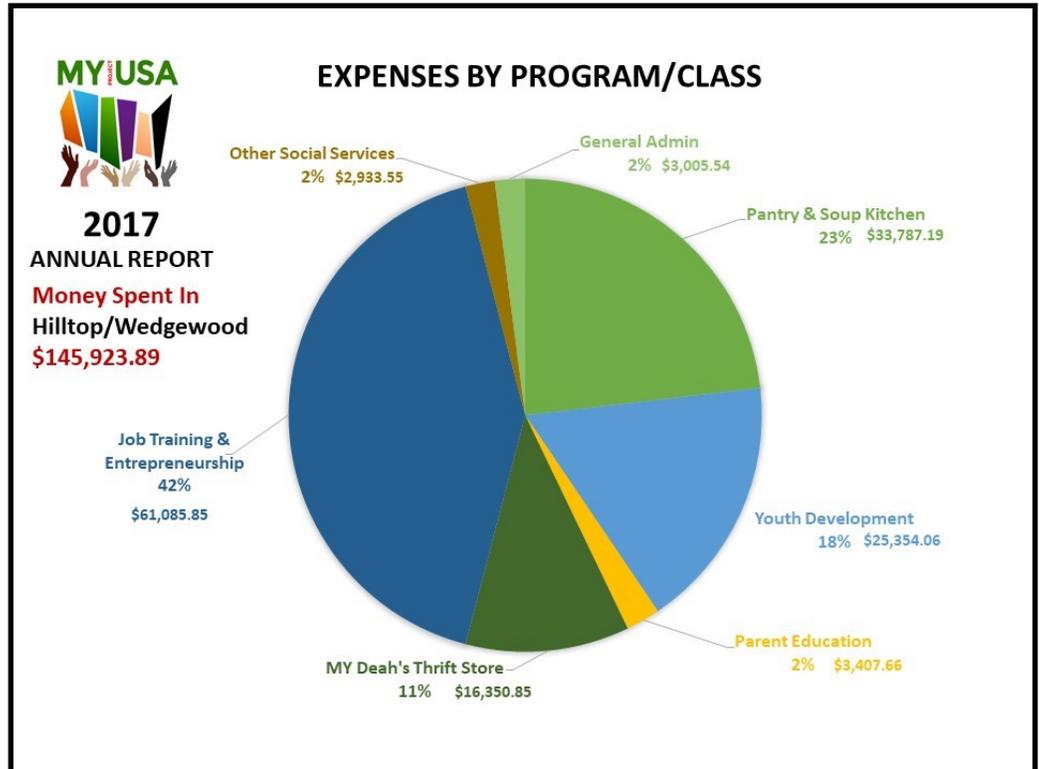
Our Founder and Executive Director Zerqa Abid works voluntarily. She and her family is a major donor of the organization. She has also done hundred of thousands of dollars worth of work for the organization for free. She has been working 60-70 hours a week for the last two years. Because of her, our expenses are very low in admin, Parent Development and other social services area.

Our Family Pantry team also works as volunteers. These college students give 5-6 hours every week to serve more than 100 families on Saturday mornings.

Our Field Coordinator, Samira Mohamud, also give 10-20 hours as volunteers every month. All Wedgewood youth give several hours every week as volunteers. They only receive stipends for their time in the Boy Scouts Program.

We are grateful to the Columbus City Council for their support through the grant to the Boy Scouts of America. We are also grateful to the United Way of Central Ohio for a small grant we received from them for Parents Education.

The main contributors are our community members. Muslim Community members have been very generous to support this cause. We also have several non-Muslim friends and churches that have supported us by different means. We appreciate all of them. Together, we have made a difference last year. We hope more people would join us this year.



2018 GOALS & BUDGET



OUR SOCIAL SERVICES PRIORITIES

In 2017, we were able to improve our system to take care of the basic/short-term needs, food, clothing, urgent help with rent, bills, etc., and we started providing long-term solutions through education, trainings and employments. We served more than 30,000 clients last year.

In 2018, we would like to sustain what we have grown in 2017, but we would like to invest more in program sides and increasing our human capacity in the workforce. We aim to have more people empowered within our target communities. Our main focus program wise would be on these programs:

Highschool Education Committee to help them graduate on time and to help them address any issues at their school. This committee will also keep youth away from drugs and gangs.

Youth Leaders Development to foster these youth as the leaders, mentors, counselors and big brother, big sisters of their own community.

Resident Council Training & Development to help refugee and less-informed residents understand their rights and responsibilities, so they could help foster a healthy and safe environment for their families. This council would also help address the crimes in the neighborhood as well.

Parent Education to empower refugee and

less-informed parents with the skills and knowledge that could help them raise their children as healthy and productive American citizens.

MY Deah's Warehouse to become a self sufficient organization by 2020. We are following the model of Goodwill Stores. Donations collected from the community are given to the needy community members or are being sold to help empower the community members through other services.

YOUR MONEY COULD GO A LONG WAY!

PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY

ONLINE: MYProjectUSA.org

MAIL: Write Your Check to "MY Project USA" & Mail it to this address:

MY Project USA
PO Box 1311,
Hilliard, OH 43026

Visit Us At MY Deah's
3036, Sullivant Ave.,
Columbus 43204

More Info:
Info@MYProjectUSA.org
614-905-0977



CAPACITY BUILDING GOALS

Category	2017	2018
Wedgewood Youth Leaders	15	25
Wedgewood Resident Leaders	0	10
Soccer Team (s)	1	3
Employees & Interns	25	40
Children/Youth in Programs	125	250

2018 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOCUS AREAS

This year, we will partner with many organizations to work with mainstream communities focusing on the following areas.

- ✓ Voter Registration & Turning Out Vote in Elections
- ✓ Immigration Rights & Sanctuary Movement
- ✓ Gun Safety & Prevention of Gun Violence
- ✓ Environment Protection with special Focus on Clean Water Preservation in Columbus
- ✓ Women Empowerment with special Focus on
 - ✓ Domestic Violence
 - ✓ Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
 - ✓ Under-Age Marriages
 - ✓ Sex Trafficking

We are looking for youth leaders to take lead in this initiatives. We will provide them training and support they might need.

2018 \$\$\$ NEED OF PROGRAMS

Item	Cost	Total
ADMIN & OTHER GENERAL COST		
Office Manager & Book Keeper	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
MY FAMILY PANTRY & SOUP KITCHEN (FOOD)		
Rent	\$10,000.00	
Waste Disposal	\$3,000.00	
Utilities	\$2,500.00	
Supplies & Incidentals	\$500.00	
Truck Rental/Transportation	\$4,000.00	\$20,000.00
MY DEAH'S STORE (CLOTHES, HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT & EMPLOYMENT)		
Rent	\$10,000.00	
Waste Disposal	\$1,000.00	
Utilities	\$2,000.00	
Supplies & Incidentals	\$2,500.00	\$15,500.00
PARENTS & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT		
Program Coordinator	\$35,000.00	
Field Coordinator	\$25,000.00	
Office Supplies & Incidentals	\$1,000.00	
3 Soccer Teams	\$5,000.00	\$66,000.00
JOB TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT		
Stipends for 5 individuals - 20 weeks Training	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
MY DEAH'S WAREHOUSE (PATH TO SELF SUFFICIENCY)		
Rent	\$25,000.00	
Utilities	\$2,500.00	
Equipment & supplies	\$10,000.00	
Donation Collection boxes	\$15,000.00	
Salaries	\$15,000.00	\$67,500.00
Grand Total		\$199,000.00