



Fifth Third invests \$200,000 in five community groups in Akron, Cleveland

Published: Thursday, January 26, 2012, 8:55 PM Updated: Friday, January 27, 2012, 1:23 PM



Tonya Sams, The Plain Dealer

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Fifth Third Bank is awarding \$200,000 in five Northeast Ohio non-profit community groups, the bank announced Thursday.

The investments are going to three Cleveland-based groups: Esperanza Inc., Neighborhood Progress, Inc., Friends of Breakthrough, Inc. and two in Akron: Akron Community Urban League, and University Park Alliance.



The money is coming from Fifth Third's Community Reinvestment Act Enterprise Investment Fund, which helps the development of local communities and also assist those living in disaster areas, have low and moderate incomes, live in the inner city and those who live in under served rural areas with moderate incomes.

"We are excited to partner with organizations whose strategic initiatives are aligned with Fifth Third's goal to assist underserved individuals and neighborhoods in need," said the senior vice president and director of community development, Emmanuel T. Glover in a press release. "We are proud to be able to make a difference in the community."

The groups already have plans on how to use the investments they've received: Esperanza will use the money to help make educational improvements and increase graduation rates; Neighborhood Progress Inc. will use the grant toward their Green Model Blocks Program, which helps to revitalize the economy and development neighborhoods; Akron Community Urban League will help small businesses owned by African Americans and Hispanics; Friends of Breakthrough will use the funds for their Breakthrough Charter Schools; and University Park Alliance will help development downtown Akron and the University of Akron by renovating and creating housing and developing new retail areas.

© 2012 cleveland.com. All rights reserved.