



HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

\$6.5 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CASE FOR SUPPORT

WE'VE REACHED 50% OF THE GOAL!



Propelled by the acute need for high-quality academic mentoring services in our community, Crossover Mission was founded in 2014 to change a tragic trajectory of at-risk youth and young adults.

Crossover was launched by way of an unlikely partnership between two life-long Vero Beach residents, a white mother seeking a basketball coach for her son, and a black coach determined to create opportunities for children to overcome hardships at home and the negative influences of the streets. By joining forces, Cathy De Schouwer and Antoine Jennings created a program that generates a sense of purpose and life-changing outcomes for children who do not believe in themselves.

Athletics and mentoring are well-proven methods for helping at-risk youth thrive. Crossover Mission delivers an in-depth approach to both with year-round rigorous basketball training matched with intensive one-to-one academic mentoring in addition to college and career readiness. As much as this mission is about athletic and academic success, Crossover also teaches students about resilience, responsibility, respect and reach.



Crossover currently serves 85 students, 60% identify as BIPOC (black, Indigenous, people of color), and range in age from 8 to 22 years old. Crossover's female student population continues to grow, now representing 15% of all students. All students agree to participate at least once per week after school for basketball training and academic mentoring by staff and volunteers from the community. Transportation is provided from 16 schools to remove the barrier to accessibility.

Consistent academic support provides students with the structure and skills necessary to succeed in school, and to become eligible to play school sports. In close coordination with parents, teachers, and guidance counselors, Crossover staff builds a cohesive team around each student, monitors assignments and grades, and provides additional tutoring time and interventions as needed. This model produces powerful results:

- 96% of Crossover students earned a GPA of 2.0 or greater in 2021 versus 48% six years ago.
- 100% of Crossover students graduated high school in 2021, and 100% gained entry to college.

While academic achievement is the take away, basketball is the hook. On the court, critical life skills such as teamwork and planning are reinforced along with accountability and sportsmanship. Crossover coaches are the positive role models that help to shape a Crossover student into an athlete with the goal of joining their school basketball team. Being a part of such a community is demonstrated to improve high school graduation rates, increase access to college and prepare students for successful careers.

- 96% of Crossover students were academically eligible to try out for their high school basketball team in 2021, and 86% of those students earned their spot on the team!

Crossover has proven that its program works. It has also proven to be a professionally-managed, sustainable operation governed by a dedicated board of directors and supported by a growing community of donors and volunteers. Crossover stands at an exciting crossroads.

There is an essential next chapter to serve more students of our community. More than 60% of all Indian River County school-age youth are on free and reduced cost lunch. This equates to 10,000 low-income youth in need of support. Fewer than 2,000 of these students participate in high-quality after school programs such as Crossover, Gifford Youth Achievement Center, Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Youth Guidance Mentoring Academy and Dasie Hope Center. The need for additional enrichment student support exceeds the capacity of our existing network. As such, after careful planning and due diligence, Crossover has implemented a transformative plan to quadruple the number of students it can serve each year; each student receiving the in-depth support necessary to change the trajectory of their future.



Main basketball court view from the mezzanine

In addition to operating at capacity, Crossover faced significant challenges due to the lack of consistently available gymnasium space. Despite grateful partnerships with Gifford Youth Achievement Center, Gifford Middle School, Storm Grove Middle School, Intergenerational Center and others, the effort to secure adequate space created operational inefficiencies and disruptions for our students, coaches and volunteers.

There are few buildings in Vero Beach that can accommodate the academic and athletic space requirements of Crossover. After an exhaustive search and a cost analysis of constructing a new facility, Crossover identified the former Quality Citrus packing plant, located on US-1 and 45th Street, as an ideal property for its new home.



This unoccupied 40,000 square foot building was rebuilt in 2004 to the highest hurricane standards, and contains the open floor plan to accommodate a full-sized basketball court, and a 6,000 square foot mezzanine level for administrative and program spaces. In 2019, the board of directors and co-founders, Jennings and De Schouwer, came to the consensus that this was the future home of Crossover Mission. The owner agreed and provided an affordable lease and a \$250,000 discount from the asking price. In 2020, Crossover entered into a lease to purchase agreement, and began improvements needed for occupancy in early January 2022.

Now to realize the vision for this new Crossover Center for Excellence, a time-sensitive \$6.5 million *Home Court Advantage* Capital Campaign is well under way!

The purpose of this campaign is to fund the:

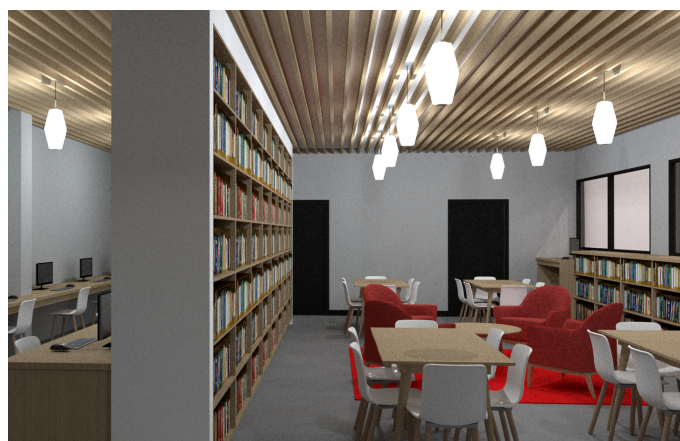
- \$2,350,000 in renovations to the building and grounds, furniture, fixtures and equipment.
- \$2,000,000 for an operating reserve that supports program expansion and an endowment.
- \$2,150,000 purchase of the property to eliminate the mortgage and be debt free.

Attributes of the new **Crossover Center for Excellence** include:

- Fully-equipped regulation-size basketball court and half-size practice court.
- Exercise and athletic training room, boys' and girls' locker rooms, equipment storage.
- Darlene W. Ryder Center for Academics and Training (CAT) with private mentoring rooms, a multipurpose training and tutoring room, a library and two computer labs.
- Mezzanine viewing area.
- Kitchen and dining facilities.
- ADA accessibility.
- Landscaped grounds, parking and safety lighting.

Benefits to this project are substantial:

- Student enrollment capacity increases from 85 to 250 eliminating a heart-breaking waitlist.
- Program location consistency is established for enhanced student, coach, volunteer experiences.
- Operational and staff efficiencies are gained and redirected to program expansion.
- Program innovation and diversification with the potential for new sports (volleyball, baseball, football, lacrosse),
- Recruitment of additional female students, accommodations for students with physical disabilities, tournaments and new community partnerships.
- Permanent base of operations connecting us to the community at-large with close proximity to those we serve.
- Effective repurpose of an unused citrus industry building that contributes to the local economy.



Darlene W. Ryder Center for Academics and Training (CAT) and Dawn and Ted Michael library

The *Home Court Advantage* Capital Campaign has already reached 50% of its goal as of August, 2022:

- Two Crossover board members donated \$250,000 each.
- Board members and community members donated \$215,000 for the down payment.
- An anonymous foundation granted \$1.1 million to the campaign and \$1.1 million for programs.
- Darlene and Tom Ryder donated \$500,000 to complete the Center for Academics and Training
- Blair Family Foundation donated \$250,000 towards the campaign.
- John T. Ryan Trust c/o Julie Parker has granted \$304,000 for basketball fixtures and renovations.
- Impact 100 granted \$100,000 toward the Center for Academics & Training.
- John's Island Foundation granted \$100,000 for building improvements and the main basketball court.



Crossover Mission Center for Excellence

"Crossover is committed to helping people with their schoolwork and I appreciate that. After I graduate high school I want to go to college and get a really good job. I know Crossover can help me get there."

-Anthony Carter Jr., 9th Grade

**Join us in this Home Court Advantage Capital Campaign
to realize the bold vision for the
Crossover Center for Excellence.**