

Media Alert

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August 11, 2010



Tree of Life Christian Ministries Purchases Vacant Time Warner/AOL Building

Tree of Life Christian Ministries announced today that it has purchased the vacant Time Warner/AOL buildings on Henderson Road in north Upper Arlington for the purpose of locating Tree of Life Christian Schools at this location.

Todd Marrah, President of Tree of Life Christian Ministries and Superintendent of Tree of Life Christian Schools, said the organization proceeded with the purchase because "we are confident that this is the right location for our school - for now and into the future."

It has been a substantial burden, according to Marrah, to operate Tree of Life in four different locations. By consolidating to one campus, the school can operate more efficiently and effectively and can further its mission, grow its student population and provide increased employment.

The purchase of the AOL Building by Tree of Life is good for the city of Upper Arlington because:

- Tree of Life will provide income tax income greater than what has been realized from this site in many years and obviously more than is now realized from the unoccupied buildings.
- Tree of Life currently employs 148 people and, with the growth expected from unifying its campuses, expects its staff to grow to more than 200 people within a few years of opening. Annual payroll exceeds \$2.5 million. This represents a significant increase over the payroll at the buildings in recent years, as that building has been vacant since 2008 and housed only 107 employees in 2007.
- Tree of Life will not request tax incentives or economic development assistance in connection with the purchase and development of this property and the move of the school. Upper Arlington has provided such incentives to most new employers to the city.
- The campus includes a Tier II data center which has been leased to a third party. This transaction provides enhanced property tax income and income tax income for Upper Arlington.
- Area businesses have expressed enthusiasm for the increased traffic that will be created by faculty, staff, students and parents of the school and employees at the data center.

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- Tree of Life will provide a complement to the outstanding educational offerings in the Upper Arlington area, by offering affordable tuition and a strong Christian foundation for learning.

The property is a good investment for Tree of Life because:

- The campus will comfortably accommodate all grade levels and administration facilities for Tree of Life Christian – all on one campus. The size and configuration of the buildings are ideally suited for a school.
- Its location is ideal. Being inside the I-270 outer belt makes it easier for Tree of Life to fulfill its mission of educating children from throughout central Ohio in a Christian environment. The campus will be the only preschool through 12th grade Christian school in the Northwest and West sectors of Franklin County.
- The campus will allow Tree of Life to meet its vision of providing quality Christian education to a greater population.

More about the property:

- The buildings have approximately 254,000 square feet.
- The renovation is a perfect example of adaptive reuse, where a building is retrofitted for a use other than that for which it was built. It furthers one of the school's goals of fostering good stewardship of the environment.
- The building across the street from the main building (the former Compuserve Fitness Facility) will also be a part of the campus and will house preschool and kindergarten. It is also currently vacant.
- This renovation will result in a much greener environment, as up to 50% of current parking spaces will be replaced by green space.
- A 65,000-70,000 square-foot addition to the facility is planned to accommodate gymnasiums and a chapel to be used for religious and educational purposes. These additions will be located on the north side of the property, closest to Henderson Road, thus eliminating any impact on residential areas. The green space along the south portion of the property will not be impacted by new construction. No new construction will be taller than the current three stories.
- Athletic fields, for team sports, will not be located on this campus.

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About Tree of Life:

Tree of Life Christian Schools, sponsored and supported by seven north Columbus churches through their missions programs, was founded 32 years ago to provide superior education and nurture young lives in Christ. Today, its four campuses house 675 students in programs ranging from early education through grade 12. Close to 150 teachers, faculty and staff are committed to the spiritual, intellectual and personal development of the student body. Tree of Life Christian School's rigorous academic program has been accredited by the Ohio Department of Education, the Association of Christian Schools International and AdvanceEd. It is not a charter school.

For More Information:

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