



Expanding the Mission

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The Goal

With limited high school options to pursue in Milwaukee and obstacles in the path of many of these options, providing a quality high school for the students of Cross Trainers Academy would bless them in many ways. However, with limited physical and financial resources, this would be a bold undertaking for all involved. **The goal of this project has been to explore the feasibility of expanding Cross Trainers Academy to include a high school.**

The Process

The primary obstacle in our desire for school expansion has been finding a suitable building to house the school. Much work has gone into searching for a building, and while many leads have been followed, most have ended in disappointment. However, at the end of 2013, information about a building that is very near our current facility became available. A committee was formed to explore the feasibility of purchasing this building. Their mandate has included, but is not limited to, the following areas:

- Geographical and site suitability
- Funding sources
- Long-term sustainability
- Educational programming
- Community impact
- City regulations

The Impact

Many benefits have resulted from my participation in the Van Lunen Fellows Program during this important time in our school's history. John Cissel has provided much wisdom and direction in the process, which has given me the confidence to make recommendations and to go forward with various initiatives. It has also been helpful to listen to the stories of other school leaders who have previously walked this path. While each situation is unique, there is a common theme of balancing renewed vision with the risk involved.

As of the writing of this report, the Milwaukee Rescue Mission is seriously considering the purchase of the nearby property mentioned above. An offer with numerous contingencies has been made and accepted. It is our goal that a renovated building could be in place for the 2015-2016 school year.