

## *Search for a Home*

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My Van Lunen project focused on the funding, purchase and renovation of our new home for the school. This project has revolved around the process of fundraising, institutional change and developing volunteer teams to move the school forward with strategic initiatives. Since the school was so small and our administrative team consisted of myself as Headmaster and two other part-time administrators, it would be vital to involve the School Board and members of the community to see this project through to the end.

### *The Development Phase:*

In the Spring of 2015 we started the silent phase for a 1.3-million-dollar campaign to raise money for the purchase of an abandoned school building renovation project in Fenton, Missouri. The first step was to develop a list of faithful donors that have given to the school in the past and share with them our vision for a permanent location. I met with 25 families and we were able to raise \$500,000.00 before going public to the community. This was a great start but it was only about 1/3 of what we really needed to make the purchase happen.

### *The Marketing Team:*

Once we were confident with the process of fundraising we hired a company to help with the branding of the public phase of the process. Conflux met with our administrative team on a weekly basis to rework our vision, mission and core values so that our message was consistent and clear. Through this process we created a series of videos that could be used on the website to show the history of the school, our vision for the school and encourage participation in the capital campaign. As we went public with the campaign I organized meetings with each family from the school and others from the community to talk with them about their potential contribution to the endeavor. Through this process we raised another \$250,000.00. This gave us the confidence to move forward with the purchase of the building.

### *The Building Committee:*

At the same time, we were developing the fundraising for the building we also had a building committee working through the details of the renovation, purchase and permitting process for the new location. The purpose of this committee was to determine how much money would be needed to complete the process and to navigate our wonderful government system in St. Louis County. In this process we hired a real estate lawyer that helped us through the purchase. In November of 2015 we purchased the new campus for \$825,000.00 with an estimated renovation cost of \$340,000.00. We then entered a six-month process with St. Louis County for the permitting and zoning changes that needed to be made. In order to complete the purchase, we borrowed the remaining money from our gracious banking institution Cass Bank. They provided the funding that we needed to get the building purchased and renovated through the final stages.

Now we are excited to begin our next academic school year in our new location. This summer we will be putting the final touches on our classrooms, finishing out the gym, and creating some new spaces for our Fine Arts department. We are blessed to have found a permanent location for our school and give God the glory for what He has provided.