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One Village Alliance Celebrates 15 Years of Transformative Impact Marking the Milestone with the Purchase of an Entire City Block. The historic development project will be unveiled during a Ribbon Cutting planned for July 15, 2025. [See full details here.](#)

Wilmington, DE – July 2025 – One Village Alliance (OVA), a Delaware-based nonprofit trailblazing equity work in education, entrepreneurship, and the arts, proudly announces its 15-Year Anniversary and the ribbon cutting of OVA Freedom: the state's first Community-based Urban Wellness Center of its kind.

On **Tuesday, July 15, 2025** community members, partners, and founding funders will gather to mark the official unveiling of a once-vacant **entire city block** in North Wilmington—now owned by OVA. This highly collaborative project brings urban greening, community building and increased access to wellness resources and food stability in a shared vision led by neighborhood youth and residents. It will serve as a vibrant hub for health, wealth and wellness to address the long-underserved needs of historically marginalized children and their families.

Honorees: Wali Rushdan, Esq., Attorney at Law; Sen. Margaret Rose Henry; Dr. Dorrell Green, Superintendent, Red Clay School District; Allie Stephenson, Owner, Chic-fil-A Concord Mall; Calvin E. Harmon, Jr. Esq., Chair, One Village Alliance; Vernita Dorsey, WSFS Bank; Dr. Lampkins, UAME Church.

Partners & Sponsors: The development of OVA Freedom is made possible through the philanthropic support of: Delaware Public Health, The Welfare Foundation, Chic-Fil-A Concord Mall, Crestlea Foundation, PepsiCo, WSFS Cares, Nemours, The Mexican Post, Wilmington City Councilman Coby Owens, Partnership for Delaware Estuary, DE Center for Horticulture, individual donors, youth and families.

Event Details: Tuesday, July 15th 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. at 31 W. 31st Street in Wilmington, Delaware.

Highlights Include:

- Ribbon Cutting: Commemorating the purchase of 31st Street from Tatnall to Market.
- Unveiling: OVA's *Community-Based Urban Wellness Center* Phase I - Outdoor Greenspace
- Live art, music and performances
- Food & Open Bar, Awards, Reception, 15 Year Highlights, VIP Reception

Whether you're a longtime supporter or a newcomer ready to join the movement, this historic celebration is your opportunity to give back, get inspired, and pledge your support for the next 15 years of impact building stronger communities from Wilmington to West Africa!

Community Impact: This project addresses the Social Determinants of Health and aligns with the Vital Conditions Framework—both of which influence life expectancy. OVA Freedom is designed to:

- Provide inviting, accessible space for screenings, classes, and wellness programs
- Increase trust and engagement through resident-designed public art and stewardship activities
- Reduce public safety incidents by installing cameras, fencing, lighting, and walkways
- Enhance environmental health through greening, tree removal, and reduced heat island effect
- Promote equity by making cultural and wellness spaces physically and socially accessible
- Improve civic pride and public perception of the neighborhood
- Expand economic mobility through site-based youth programs and job creation

Purpose: Access to green, safe, and vibrant public spaces is not a luxury—it's vital to life expectancy. Urban communities with beautiful, well-maintained environments see lower stress levels, higher life satisfaction, reduced crime, and improved academic and economic outcomes. Yet, these assets are often denied to low-income communities. OVA seeks to correct that disparity—not just through structural upgrades, but through a deep investment in healing, dignity, and community vitality.

Original Footprint: In March 2020, OVA moved into a 10,000 sq. ft. facility in a historic community/faith-based partnership with U.A.M.E. — the nation's first independent Black church founded by freedom fighter Peter Spencer. Two days later, COVID-19 shut down the world. OVA remained open—becoming the only agency in Delaware to offer uninterrupted, in-person support to the public throughout the pandemic.

Newly expanded: The purchase of this acquisition increases OVA's capacity with more than a half acre of expansive outdoor space and one additional building structure for more than 15,000 square feet of state of the art indoor space to be shared with wellness practitioners, program partners, community members, business owners, and youth.

Offerings: Co-working Spaces, Fully Licensed Commissary/Commercial Kitchen, Studios and Classrooms, Conference Center and Indoor/Outdoor Event Spaces. This beautification and infrastructure upgrade will serve as a bridge to wellness and prevention services. It will create an inviting, accessible space for practitioners and providers to host screenings/workshops, physical health classes and mental wellness activities like culinary and creative arts.