

VENTURE PROFILE

Harold Mills

Lift Orlando



What was one of Orlando, Florida's most blighted neighborhoods is now nearly unrecognizable and ready for residents to move back in thanks to the biggest revitalization investment the area has seen in decades. Harold's venture Lift Orlando, bought the land around Camping World Stadium to focus on reforming the neighborhood. Lift Orlando, a 501(c)3 is working in partnership with 12 business leaders to transform this entire community through a holistic approach addressing housing, education, health and wellness, and economic viability.

Demolition on the old housing units started January 2016. Construction on the mixed-income affordable housing units is now complete with their first residents moving in Summer 2018. They had 8,000 applications for 250 units. Approximately 60% of the move-ins previously lived in the neighborhood or had some historic ties to the neighborhood, which was one of the goals of the venture. The merger of two schools was completed and opened in August 2017 serving over 300 students. Additionally, Lift Orlando finalized funding for the Boys and Girls Club, the Early Childhood Education Center and the Wellness Center. Funding for the new public park is 80% secured, all of which are expected to ready by Fall 2019 – fundamentally transforming this area.



Mission

Transform a community by ending the cycle of poverty through a holistic and geographic focused approach.

Title

CEO, VMD Ventures

Henry Crown Fellow Class XX

2016, Straight Outta Aspen

In His Words

Our project suffered a significant setback with losing the call center opportunity which would have brought 2,000 jobs into the neighborhood. While the setback was significant, it has not stopped our progress.