

Project Description
Bright Future Family & Community Development Center
For the Lower Richland Community of Columbia South Carolina



Put-Back, a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) exempt organization established in South Carolina on December 13, 1999 and based in the Lower Richland Community of Richland County will construct a facility that will become a comprehensive service center for residents of the Lower Richland community. The facility will house a 24 hour licensed child development center; technologically based educational programs for adults of all ages who did not graduate from a secondary school program or for those who need to retool their knowledge and skill-sets for employment; programs that will address family violence, reunification and other initiatives to strengthen families; and, opportunities for community residents to plan and implement other programs they deem to be specific to resolving common challenges. Locating these services in the Lower Richland Community is important as residents must travel 35-40 miles in any direction to receive services that are vital to human well-being.

The Lower Richland community is the only major portion of Richland County, that continues to have a significant land area that can be classified as rural; and, had the spurt of residential growth that has characterized the entire state over the past 10 years continued, would have been greatly challenged to maintain this rural status. The slowdown in housing development presents an opportunity for the community to take stock of its assets and its deficits and determine its own pathway out of deeply entrenched problems of rural poverty, low educational achievement levels especially among African American males, insufficiencies in the areas' capacity to attract livable wage jobs and myriad other problems that mirror those of most rural communities in America. One glaring deficit in the Lower Richland is the absence of a public place where the community can coalesce to plan and execute plans for its survival, have a safe place where minor children can be tended to while parents seek work and hold jobs, and, where the significant numbers of youth who've been given up by the educational system can find a way out of poverty.

The Bright Future Family & Community Development Center that is planned to be such a place for the Lower Richland Community will serve these purposes and an array of others for this community. The facility will be developed under the auspices of Put-Back in cooperation with USDA, other major funding sources for nonprofits, commercial lenders, political and civic leaders and members of the community-at-large.

WORKING TOGETHER
TO BUILD A STRONG & VIBRANT COMMUNITY