

YOUNG and BOLD
Professional Development
“Investing in You for a Better Tomorrow”

The **Young and Bold** program is a ministry initiative fueled by the young adult community of Iglesia Presbiteriana Nuevas Fronteras in Plainfield, New Jersey. **Young and Bold** will be a ministry of Nuevas Fronteras in partnership with various businesses and organizations in the Plainfield community. Nuevas Fronteras is a congregation composed of families from 17 countries in Latin America and a growing second-generation populous. We encounter individuals that confront a wide array of circumstances that affect their families/households, their personal health and social status, their faith and spirituality. These families have traveled through treacherous frontiers seeking economic well-being for their families. Because so many families and young adults have been forced to leave behind their families, they have experienced immigration as a traumatic event. Many feel abandoned and, in their search for comfort and belonging, disproportionately join gangs, fall prey to those who promise “love,” and subject themselves to circumstances beyond their control such as alcoholism, drug addiction and unwanted pregnancies. This initiative was inspired by encountering immigrant families who seemed lost or weary in managing their financial needs, such as, opening a savings account and what financial option are available to them. These young leaders from Nuevas Fronteras noticed a glaring absence of common gathering space for their community’s Hispanic/Latino/a young adults. In particular, for undocumented young adults, finding a place to invest in the larger community continues to prove difficult and lack of resources to assist them in their professional/educational goals. With that in mind, **Young and Bold** is committed to creating a safe space for the young adults of this community. This space will be collaboratively coordinated with community businesses owned by Hispanic/Latino/as, opened to the public, while maintaining the intimacy of a cozy dining area for our mission is to stop the cycle of fear and create a path toward victory.

How will we proceed? Our first goal is to engage with the larger community, bakeries, restaurants, and libraries, in building trusting relationships and spaces. **Young and Bold** will provide financial and professional development seminars and resources in these spaces, including the church. Our second goal is to organize four cohorts of twenty young adults throughout the year. Each cohort will undergo eight-weeks of 2-hour seminars on budgeting, savings, navigating financial tools, etc. These cohorts will learn from each other in an intimate setting where they will also receive sustainable guidance and technical assistance from local business owners and financial professionals. Initiatives that encourage immigrants to build wealth and take part in the formal financial system — banking the “unbanked” — must overcome language and cultural barriers to reach sometimes insular communities. **Young and Bold** will help immigrants develop the confidence to effectively use the banking system and even get on the path to homeownership, while assisting local financial service providers better understand the circumstances and opportunities of immigrant populations. At the end of each eight-week program, each cohort will work together with a local business to develop a collaborative business platform. The goal of these platforms is to guide immigrant young adults

to save, become financially literate, and invest in their community while promoting stable neighborhoods that contribute to the development of their dreams.

It is our hope that through **Young and Bold**, a safe environment will be provided where young adults can learn from local business leaders and church practitioners. With the assistance of our Zoe Project Team, a project coordinator will be hired to facilitate communication between the church, local service organizations and businesses. An interactive curriculum will be designed utilizing the services of local financial professionals representing both the congregation and community partners. During the 4 eight-week periods, **Young and Bold** will also provide child-care through a child-care provider for young parents who represent various household types. Recent demographic studies in the Plainfields indicate a large growing percentage of young families ages 18 - 45. Throughout the year a **Young & Bold** Studio will be organized once-a-month to invite immigrant young adults for moments of fellowship and celebration of cultural values. Within a two-year timeframe we envision the possibility of incorporating **Young and Bold** as a not-for-profit entity with its own property delivering daily innovative financial services, creating platforms for innovative careers while cultivating a team that can serve as resources to local businesses and social service providers who aspire to reach-out to a growing immigrant population.