

## REAL STORIES, REAL IMPACT

### [African Development Center](#)

## Growing a Business, Revitalizing Lake Street: Mohammed's Story

Two years ago, Minneapolis—including the mayor—joined the African Development Center (ADC) in celebrating the opening of City Market, the largest African-owned business on Lake Street. The



celebration was partly in recognition of rising entrepreneurship among Africans in Minnesota and its revitalizing effects in commercial corridors like Lake Street.

City Market is a move-up venture of Mohammed Ahmed, a Somali immigrant and seasoned entrepreneur. To launch the new business, Mr. Ahmed invested \$480,000 earned in part as the proprietor of Midwest Halal Supermarket at Franklin and Portland Avenue in Minneapolis.

“Supermarket” may have been an optimistic name to describe the dimensions of Mr. Ahmed’s original location. But with five stores in one — a halal meat shop, grocery, money

wiring service, coffee shop and restaurant — the new City Market spreads comfortably over 10,000 square feet in a newly redeveloped building in the Cedar-Lake commercial node.

ADC and the City of Minneapolis partnered to complete the financing for City Market, investing a total of \$70,000 through the City’s Alternative Financing Program for small businesses, which eschews traditional, interest-based lending in favor of a profit-based method compliant with Islam.

Total TC LISC support: **\$422,000** in grants and other capacity building support since 2005

Our COACTION Fund grantees share real life stories about the impact of their community development work on local residents. [COACTION Fund](#) is a \$3.3 million capacity-building effort to support 15 high-impact, local community development initiatives. The Fund focuses on new and existing partnerships between Twin Cities organizations working to connect physical improvements in neighborhoods to economic opportunity for residents.