

OPPORTUNITY CENTER

QUICK

UPDATE

SUMMER 2002

Dear Friend of the Opportunity Center:

We appreciate your ongoing support for our effort to build the Opportunity Center of the Midpeninsula, a community response to homelessness. Our mission is to promote human dignity by giving persons an opportunity to find housing and a stable life. The center will accomplish this by providing homeless services and housing to those in our community who are in need. We're sending you this quick update on our progress to keep you informed of some recent developments. As we begin our Capital Campaign, **we are pleased to unveil a preview of our new logo, which you see above.** We're also busy developing a new newsletter—so please watch your mailbox for that.

Thank you for your support!

Don Barr, President, Community Working Group



Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Opportunity Center?

The Opportunity Center is a five-story building (plus underground parking) that will be built near (but not in) downtown Palo Alto, and will provide homeless services and housing.

What services will the Opportunity Center contain?

The Opportunity Center will contain a broad array of services on the ground floor for those who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless—from showers and lockers to job-search assistance and case-management.

Will the building contain housing for low-income persons?

Yes, up to 95 units of clean, comfortable apartments for singles and small families on the 2nd through 5th floors (number of units pending final design). These will be a mix of long-term transitional and permanent units.

Will the Opportunity Center serve both singles and women/families with children?

Yes. There will be two separate wings—one for



singles and one for women/families with children, each wing containing a service center and housing.

Where will the building be located?

On Encina Avenue in Palo Alto, off El Camino Real between the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and the Town and Country Shopping Center.

Where is the project in the City's planning process?

The architectural drawings have been given to the City of Palo Alto staff, which is helping make the project review process happen as quickly as possible. There will be several public meetings, the first sometime in September (we'll keep you posted).

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who will run the center?

InnVision, with which Urban Ministry of Palo Alto has now formally merged, will be the lead agency managing the services center. Both Urban Ministry and Clara Mateo Alliance will be providing support services to singles and families, respectively, at the center. The Housing Authority of County of Santa Clara will manage the housing component.

What will happen to Urban Ministry of Palo Alto's services?

UMPA/InnVision will continue to provide the same excellent services, some of which will move to the Opportunity Center, others of which will remain where they are located.

When will construction begin?

If we secure the necessary funding through our capital campaign, we project ground-blessing will be next summer.

How much will it cost?

Approximately \$18.5 million.

How will it be paid for?

A combination of government grants, loans, and tax credits and private donations from individuals and foundations (the capital campaign). The goal for the capital campaign is \$8 million, part of which is an endowment fund to support the services at the Opportunity Center.

Where are we in the capital campaign?

We are in the stage of identifying lead (major) gifts. At the same time, we'll also be conducting a campaign in the faith communities in the fall.

How can I help?

If you are interested in making a major gift or working on the capital campaign, please contact us (see information below). For those in the faith communities, we especially need teams of advocates in each congregation. Finally, we occasionally need help with mailings and other clerical tasks.

Contact Us:

We are in the midst of establishing a Capital Campaign office. In the meantime, please use the following contact information to reach Jeff Vamos, Campaign Director, or Joy Wagner, Associate Campaign Director:

Voicemail: 650-562-3888

Direct Line: 650-814-6518

Email: cwg@opportunitycenter.org

U.S. Mail: 555 Bryant Street, PMB #321

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Working
Group**
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RESPONSE TO
HOMELESSNESS