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THE BACKGROUND

Since opening its doors in 1984, Stephen Center has partnered with the Omaha community, families and individuals to overcome homelessness, addiction and poverty. As the area's only dry shelter, sobriety and a drug-free environment are at the foundation of its mission.

THE CHALLENGE

Stephen Center Emergency Shelter is aging and inadequate. The building is over 100 years old and no longer meets the needs of the community. Building codes make remodeling unfeasible. A new building is necessary to meet the needs of clients and our mission. Overcrowding has become a major issue and women and children need their own space. New Federal Regulations challenge the existence of the program in the current facility. Stephen Center must also raise funds to meet the operating cost of a new building.

THE PLAN

New Emergency Shelter

Stephen Center must build a new emergency shelter.

The new facility will create safe, secure and appropriately distinct areas for women, children and men. It will provide a place for clients to develop and implement a plan for success in emerging from homelessness and regaining a healthy and happy life. The new environment will be supportive of clients' needs and program requirements. Overcrowding will be eliminated to better support people's basic human needs and mental health.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing is the next step for clients.

The apartments will be divided among single men, single women and families. Residents' rent will secure a safe place to live supported by programs that provide only the services that clients believe they need for continued success; they will have access to mental health and addiction services, social services, housing referrals, etc. Critical to this effort will be the continuation of the drug and alcohol free environment that clients seek and need until they are confident in their own abilities. Those who seek out Stephen Center count upon this environment to support their efforts at a better life! We will build approximately 40 Single Room Occupancy (SRO) apartments and 14 apartments for couples/families.

Community Dining Room

A community dining facility will support clients in the Emergency Shelter and residents of the Permanent Supportive Housing unit.

With 15.1% of Americans living in poverty and 20.6% of children in Douglas County experiencing hunger every day, the new kitchen and dining hall will offer the potential to expand food services in the future as necessary.

Operational Fund

Stephen Center must secure operational funds for the proposed facilities. Less than 5% of Emergency Shelter funding comes from government grants and this amount continues to decline. Securing these funds will ensure the longevity of Stephen Center and its ability to carry out its mission in the community.

PROJECT COSTS

FACILITY COST - \$10 MILLION*

** We anticipate that the project will be eligible for 65-70% of this figure through Tax Credits and related financing, leaving Stephen Center needing to raise **\$3.0-\$3.5 million** to complete the building phase of the project.*

OPERATIONAL FUND - \$2 MILLION

