

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

FOR NONPROFITS

Mercy is renovating the former downtown Cedar Rapids Penny Saver building, 621 Fourth Ave. SE, into the Sister Mary Lawrence Community Center.

The Center will ensure many of the nonprofit organizations impacted by the floods of 2008 are able to continue to provide vital services to support the needs of those most vulnerable in our community. Tenants for the building include: Kids First, Young Parents Network (Administrative Offices), Programmatic Activities and Wee Care Shop, The Boys & Girls Club, and Gems of Hope.



Step one: Mercy's plan

Providing space for local nonprofits has been a tradition for Mercy for many years. But when the flood irrevocably damaged the hospital's Family Practice building, which housed many nonprofit agencies, it became clear an alternative site was needed. After thoughtful consideration, a plan was formulated and presented to Administration and the Mercy Board of Trustees on establishing the Penny Saver building as a nonprofit community facility.

Previously, the Penny Saver building has been used primarily for storage by the hospital.

This project will be primarily funded by Mercy, which is providing the land and the building, foregoing any profit potential from revenue-generating tenants. Renovation costs are estimated at \$1.5 million.



Step two: Mercy Auxiliary & Mercy Foundation support

The Mercy Auxiliary, the fundraising arm of the hospital's Volunteer Services, donates thousands of dollars each year to designated causes. These dedicated volunteers have generously offered to donate money raised via their fundraising efforts over the next two years to the new community center. The Auxiliary became a part of Mercy in 1923 and has donated more than \$4 million to various Mercy projects over the years.

Nonprofit organizations serve many needs in our community. The new Sister Mary Lawrence Community Center will provide housing for nonprofits like Kids First, The Boys & Girls Club and Gems of Hope.



Support also will come from the Mercy Foundation's Sister Mary Lawrence (Hallagan) Fund. A former Mercy administrator, chairman of the board and founder of the Mercy Foundation, Sr. Mary Lawrence would have celebrated her 100th birthday this year. The new Community Center will memorialize her as a highly-respected community advocate.

Step three: Hall-Perrine grant funding



The Hall and Perrine families were among the earliest Mercy supporters and their continued generosity is evidenced by the award of a \$600,000 grant from the Hall-Perrine Foundation. Community leaders Howard Hall and Beahl Perrine were supporters of Sr. Mary Lawrence

and developed a strong relationship with her throughout her long career at Mercy.



Step four: Progress report

The Center currently is under construction after Mercy finalized plans designed by local architect Dan Thies, OPN, to allow optimal space allocation and meet long-term needs identified by nonprofit tenants. Requests for space continue to be received and Mercy is compiling a list of additional community nonprofit partners for occupancy. This project will complement another project called the Human Services Campus, led by the United Way of East Central Iowa, which also will house between six and 10 organizations.