

## DeKalb County Community Foundation Helps Build Hope

The DeKalb County Community Foundation recently announced a grant of \$150,000 to Hope Haven of DeKalb County for their “Building Hope” campaign. Hope Haven launched their “Building Hope” campaign in order to raise \$950,000 for the construction of an expansion to the existing emergency homeless shelter located at 1145 Rushmoore Drive in DeKalb. The expansion will increase capacity of the shelter from 24 to 54 beds and add classroom space for programs geared to help clients obtain the skills and tools they need to reach their fullest potential. However, the greatest benefit will be to better serve the increasing number of homeless women and children living in DeKalb County. When the project is complete, Hope Haven’s total capacity for all of their programs at the Rushmoore Drive facility will increase to 102 beds, 72 designated for homeless women and families and 30 for men

The DCCF grant payable over three years, will help Hope Haven meet their goal of raising the necessary funds to pay all debt service incurred by the expansion. This will ensure affordability of the project and reduce long-term financing cost. “The DCCF has a long history of supporting Hope Haven and recognizing the needs of the homeless living in our community”, says Lesly Wicks Executive Director of Hope Haven. “They understand the need to provide basic care for the homeless and they also appreciate the importance Hope Haven places on education, skill building and empowerment”.

“We are very pleased to support the excellent services of Hope Haven to our neighbors in need during a vulnerable time of life” said Dan Templin, DCCF Executive Director. “This is the second largest single grant awarded in DCCF’s 18 year history and reflects the spirit of philanthropy in DeKalb County”.

In 2010, Hope Haven assisted 303 homeless clients, served 34,582 meals and provided 24,098 nights of shelter to individuals and families living in DeKalb County. During that same time, 207 individuals were turned away due to lack of space, of these, 99 were children. According to Sue Guio, past Coordinator of DeKalb County Continuum of Care, “A one-night count of unsheltered homeless in DeKalb County identified 25 individuals living in places not meant for human habitation.” Hope Haven’s Board of Directors based their decision to expand services on these overwhelming statistics.

If you would like to support Hope Haven’s “Building Hope” expansion campaign for the homeless, send your tax deductible gift to “Hope Haven-Building Hope”, 1145 Rushmoore Drive in DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

