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Harbor House planning \$12M intergenerational care center

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Harbor House, an adult day care center for individuals with disabilities, is raising \$12 million to build an intergenerational life center.

The center, 2231 Lower Hunter's Trace, caters to individuals with disabilities, but the new building will provide care to children and

seniors as well.

The campaign to raise \$12 million for the new building went public in September, but the project has been in the works silently for years. Funding currently sits at \$8 million.

Maria Smith, CEO of Harbor House, said the nonprofit has had ideas for intergenerational programs since the 1980s, but hasn't had the space to see it to its full potential. The new building is set to be 35,000 square feet, on two acres of land which Harbor House recently bought, adjacent to the current property.

The current facility sits on leased acreage from Incarnation Catholic Church, but the additional acreage is owned by Harbor House. Harbor House's current facility can serve 100 clients, at 8,300 square feet. It will be reengineered as a child enrichment center, which can accommodate up to 96 children.

The new center can accommodate 50 children and 350 adults. Harbor House plans to build a covered walking path to connect the two centers.



HARBOR HOUSE

Rendering of Harbor House's planned intergenerational care facility

The programs in the facility are being modeled after Milwaukee, Wisconsin-based St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care.

Harbor House plans to break ground on the new facility on March 5, 2022. Groundbreaking for the current facility happened on the same date twenty years earlier, in 2002. Officials expect to be open and ready to provide services 16-18 months after groundbreaking.

Harbor House employs about 50 people, and officials expect to add 50-75 employees with the expansion.

“We’re done being the hidden gem,” said Karen Fallon, director of development. “...We’re fighting for Harbor House to be a resource for people in the community.”

Smith said the southwest Jefferson County region that Harbor House focuses on is often overlooked and underserved. She said the area has a need for both a childcare center and senior center in the area.

But Fallon said Harbor House doesn’t just serve the southwest Jefferson County region. It provides transportation to participants, and it just ordered its 10th vehicle. A third of its staff and some participants come from the West End, and Fallon said the organization also serves people from Shepherdsville, Shelbyville and Prospect.

Harbor House is planning to partner with local organizations to provide some of its planned amenities in the intergenerational center. It plans to have an in-house medical center that provides dental, medical, vision care as well as occupational, physical and speech therapies.

There are also plans to have spa and bathing care, as well as an art studio, cafe, kitchen and fitness center. Harbor House will still offer its current programs in the expansion, including the adult day health center, supported employment and support for a community living waiver.

“We’re partnering with many people to make this happen,” Smith said. “...Know that this is not something that we’re trying to recreate the wheel with. We’re trying to bring in all the partners to help us with the medical with all these services.”

Smith said the intergenerational model could be replicated both in Louisville and throughout the state.

“We plan on replicating,” Smith said, noting that the Wisconsin model was replicated as well. “We just need to get the first one in the ground and get it servicing the folks that we know are in this area that need it.”

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