

The City Paper

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State-of-the-art homeless facility celebrates milestone

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Mark Wheeler

Room In The Inn hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday to celebrate the completion of its new state-of-the-art, five-story Comprehensive Center that will help the Nashville homeless community.

The new facility is part of Room In The Inn's \$13 million dollar expansion that will allow the nonprofit to provide a more diverse array of services including 38 affordable housing apartments, job readiness programs, an on-site library and Internet access.

Mayor Karl Dean, Gov. Phil Bredesen and about 200 involved members of the Nashville community attended the event.

The Comprehensive Center, off Eighth Avenue, includes a 13-classroom learning center to assist in the nonprofit's education and job readiness programs, an on-site office for the Department of Human Services, personal hygiene facilities and a new kitchen and dining hall. A mid-day meal service provides lunch to 200-300 people each day.

"So many things I've found the government won't get it done, the private sector won't get it done, nonprofits won't get it done; but when people come together there is no limit to what we can do," Bredesen said of Room In The Inn's achievements. "No one entity is going to solve the problem of homelessness."

The expansion signifies a major step in the growth of Room In The Inn, since its humble beginnings in 1986, the group has engaged 173 Nashville congregations to help shelter and feed the homeless during winter months.

The Comprehensive Center is the first of two phases in Room In The Inn's expansion plan. In Phase II, the nonprofit plans to provide transitional housing for the chronically homeless, social detoxification for the publicly intoxicated, recuperative care for those discharged from local

hospitals and services for those pending drug and alcohol treatment.

Visit www.roomintheinn.org ^[1] for more information.

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