

Nashville Business Journal - August 26, 2010  
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# NASHVILLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## \$13M facility for homeless unveiled

Nashville Business Journal

Nashville-based charity Room at the Inn debuted a \$13 million center on Thursday that is designed to increase the range of services available to the homeless in Nashville. The center has enjoyed substantial support from local foundations, including \$1 million from the **Cal Turner Family Foundation**, \$500,000 each from **The Ingram Charitable Trust** and the **HCA Foundation**, \$300,000 from the Memorial Foundation, and \$200,000 from **Bank of America**. The HCA Foundation also worked with **Microsoft** to donate \$90,000 in computer software, \$30,000 in computer hardware and volunteer IT support. The computers are now installed and being used for education, through a new computer lab, and for job searches and job training for the homeless.



Room in the Inn's comprehensive center includes a five-story building with 38 affordable housing apartments.

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Other companies pitched in, too: **Carraba's Italian Grill** worked with Strategic Equipment to provide kitchen equipment and design at cost, and Nashville companies **Star Distributing** and **A1 Appliances** provided washers and dryers and appliances at cost, and installed them for free.

Details of the new center, from a news release:

*Room In The Inn today unveiled its new Comprehensive Center, a state of the art facility that will dramatically increase the range of services available to Nashville's homeless community.*

*Room In The Inn's Campus for Human Development is a non-profit that provides an array of services to help and empower those struggling with homeless, all at a single site. The organization broke ground on the major campus expansion in May 2009 and recently completed its first phase, the new Comprehensive Center.*

*"The Comprehensive Center fulfills a critical need in our community by serving the complete needs of the homeless and promoting long-term independence," said Charles Strobel, Founding Director of Room In The Inn. "With the Comprehensive Center we are offering the opportunity for someone to go from living on the street to securing a permanent apartment, all the while growing as an individual mentally, physically and spiritually."*

*Designed by Oxford Architecture, the multi-purpose Comprehensive Center is the hub of the Campus, and one of the only facilities of its kind in the nation to provide an extensive array of services for the homeless. Specific highlights of the \$13 million expansion include:*

- *A new 5-story building featuring 38 affordable housing apartments*
- *State of the art 13-classroom learning center*
- *Mid-day meal services to 200-300 people daily*
- *Personal hygiene facilities including showers and laundry services*
- *On-site Department of Human Services office*
- *Education and job readiness programs*
- *Short- and long-term storage and secure storage for important documents and prescriptions*
- *On-site library/ Internet access*

*Phase II of Room In the Inn's expansion, which includes renovation of the existing facility, is currently underway. These improvements and expanded space will serve Nashville's most vulnerable homeless individuals with recuperative care for people discharged from area hospitals, social detoxification treatment, residential services for individuals participating in outpatient drug and alcohol treatment, and long-term recovery programs for homeless veterans.*

*In addition, the new building will have creative expression classrooms, an art gallery displaying*

works by participants, a legal clinic and a chapel. The “Guest House” portion of the facility will provide room for recuperative care ranging from a jail-alternative for the publicly intoxicated to providing a stable environment for those preparing for medical tests and other procedures. “This expansion is a quantum leap for not only our organization, but it represents a new chapter in our city’s future, as we invest in new facilities and better services for those who are lost, abandoned and hidden in back alleys and abandoned buildings,” Strobel said.



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