



# A center for the community

East Campus becomes facility focusing on youth and family

The large masonry building on the corner of Miller and Walnut streets has become a number of names, a seen diversity uses and been home to a multitude of memories.

The current owner of the facility, Youth & Family Center, has a vision for it to continue being the true definition of a community center.

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space. All of the preliminary studies have been completed and an energy study is currently being conducted.

"It truly is the perfect space that meets our needs," Dorr said. "It should actually enhance the treatment we have in the program."

Dorr said the next step would be approaching the board for a vote on whether to acquire the

property from Word of Life. If the board votes to acquire the property, then a capital campaign would be initiated followed by the renovations.

Yoern said other future uses for East Campus will include being a site for an archery training program known as Centershot Ministries along with providing assistance for teenage mothers.

Special Olympics Michigan held basketball practices at East Campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays for approximately eight weeks during the winter. Special Olympics made use of the area because the size of the gym at Pied Piper Opportunity Center was inadequate for practices. The gymnasium in East Campus is attractive for Special Olympics because its bleacher seating provides sitting room for friends and family who come to watch the practices, said Brett Burke, Special Olympics Michigan Area 3 assistant area director.

"It's difficult to find space and people you want to work with," he said. "We really appreciated the church buying that and taking it over and making that open to the community."

Child and Family Services of Northeast Michigan one day may be the other occupant of the currently unused half of East Campus. According to Executive Director Lyle Dorr, Child and Family Services has plans to renovate the building to be the future home of Hope House, a female residential treatment facility and add an abuse and neglect wing.

The Alpena Planning Commission granted a zoning variance on Oct. 14 for Child

