

Grant to help with Hope House relocation

By **SEAN HARKINS**
News Staff Writer

Hope House's relocation to the East Campus Youth and Family Center took a big step forward last week after a \$700,000 grant was awarded to the project.

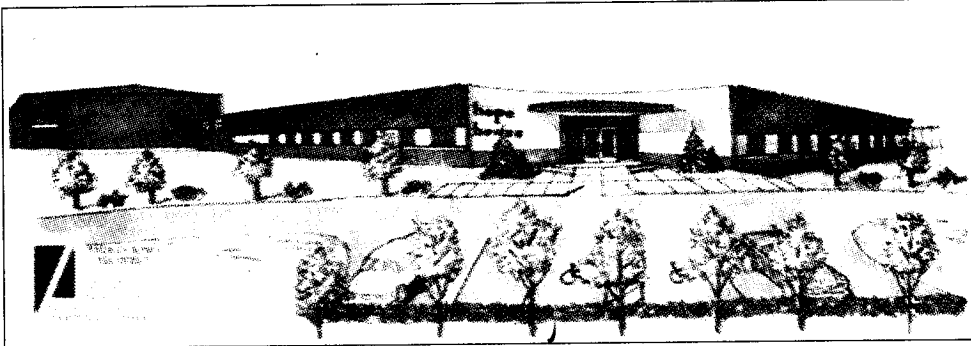
The Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis awarded the grant to Child and Family Services, the agency that runs Hope House, for the relocation effort. Independent Bank is the local sponsor and is overseeing the funds.

Hope House, which is currently located on Halley Road, is a place troubled teenage girls are sent via a court order to straighten out their lives. CFS would like to renovate a portion of the East Campus building to accommodate more girls and open an abuse and neglect wing.

"It will allow us to expand our current program from 13 to 15 girls," CFS Executive Director Lyle Dorr said, adding that the separate abuse and neglect wing will have eight beds.

Because of the special needs of abused and neglected girls, only one or two can stay in the current Hope House at once. Dorr said CFS has to turn down eight-10 referrals of abused or neglected girls per year because of a lack of space.

"They require a lot more treatment and it's



Courtesy rendering of the project

easier to treat in a small group," which will be possible in the new facility, he said.

The renovation in East Campus is expected to cost about \$1.5 million. CFS already has a Besser Foundation contribution and has some internal reserves, Dorr said.

"This (Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis grant) puts us at two-thirds of the way," he said.

Alpena Community College donated East Campus to Word of Life Baptist Church in August 2008 with an agreement that the building would be used to help individuals meet their potential. Under that premise, Word of Life donated about half the building to CFS for the Hope House.

Having the space donated helped CFS score very high on its grant application to the bank, Dorr said.

"I'm sure that played a major factor," he said.

Dorr said CFS has also applied for a \$250,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation for the Hope House. He said he plans to hear back on that grant soon.

With the \$700,000 in place, the project could be bid out as soon as the spring of 2010, with construction beginning in the summer and finishing up in the fall.

Sean Harkins can be reached via e-mail at sharkins@thealpenanews.com or by phone at 358-5688.



Good Morning

Donna Hart

Thank you for subscribing
to The Alpena News!

INSIDE TODAY'S NEWS:

Obituaries	2A	Weather	8A
Lotto	2A	SECTION B	
Stocks	3A	Sports	1-3
Commentary	4A	Comics	5
Lifestyles	7A	Classifieds	5-7

HOME DELIVERY

(989) 354-5426

NEW TIP:

(989) 354-3111

E-mail: newsroom@thealpenanews.com

www.thealpenanews.com