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Hope House signs deed

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Child and Family Services now will be eligible for significant grant funding after officially receiving property from Word of Life church.

CFS is looking to move Hope House, a place troubled teenage girls from outside of Alpena County are sent via a court order to straighten out their lives, into the East Campus Youth and Family Center - which was recently acquired by Word of Life.

On Wednesday, CFS Executive Director Lyle Dorr and Word of Life officials signed deed documents that officially put about half of the center in the hands of CFS.

Dorr said now that property has been donated, the organization is eligible for several grants - including one for about \$700,000.

Renovating the building, which used to be known as Alpena Community College's East Campus, is expected to cost about \$1.5 million. There is already \$250,000 raised for the project.

Dorr said local businesses and service organizations have been helpful with this and other CFS projects.

He is hoping funding will be in place by March 2010.

"At this point it appears we'll probably be able to open in the spring or summer of 2011," Dorr said.

Word of Life has been renovating its half of the building and has been using it for the past nine months.

ACC donated the building to Word of Life in August, with the church paying legal and transferral fees, after agreeing the building would be used to help individuals meet their potential.

"(Bringing in the Hope House) is I think fulfilling what they had in mind," Word of Life Youth Pastor Wade Yocum said.

The new Hope House will have 15 beds, up from the 13 at the currently Halley Road facility. Dorr said the expansion will offer flexibility and stability because extra girls could come in instead of having to wait for another to leave.

This sometimes caused several, more mature, residents to leave around the same time, leading to an abundance of new residents.

When the facility opens in the Youth and Family Center, there are plans for an eight-bed wing for abused and neglected girls.

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Article Photos



News Photo by Sean Harkins
Child and Family Services Executive Director Lyle Dorr signs deed documents at Northern Abstract and Title Agency on Wednesday as Word of Life volunteer Scott Barkley watches. By receiving donated property from Word of Life Baptist Church, CFS will be eligible for grants to renovate part of the East Campus Youth and Family Center to hold Hope House.

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