

ABC board gives \$600,000 to aid homeless program

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RALEIGH — Organizers who have worked to bring a unique program for the homeless to Wake County got more good news Wednesday.

The county Board of Alcoholic Beverage Control pledged \$500,000 to help build The Healing Place, a residential program that would provide substance-abuse treatment for the indigent. The local ABC board made the unanimous decision during its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, after hearing a presentation from four people who have worked

since June to model a local program after the Healing Place based in Louisville, Ky.

The ABC board also agreed to contribute an additional \$100,000 toward the operating budget for the first year of operations of the local Healing Place.

Organizers haven't yet found a site but hope to find one as close to downtown as possible. Under current plans, they hope to open the building — housing 165 men — by fall 2000 and to start a separate women's facility three years later.

Robert Massey, general manager

of Wake County's Alcoholic Beverage Control board, said the local board has a commitment to providing substance-abuse education and rehabilitation, which the innovative Healing Place would do in Wake County.

The board committed the money after hearing from Maria Spaulding, the Wake County human services director; Barbara Goodmon, a member of the Wake County Human Services board; Fred Barber, senior vice president at Capitol Broadcasting Co.; and Dennis Parnell, interim director of The Healing Place of Wake County.

"They made a very good presentation, and they have a very good program in place," Massey said. "I think it will be a good and positive benefit to Wake County. All five ABC members were in strong support."

The ABC contribution is the second financial commitment The Healing Place has received this month. Last week, WakeMed pledged \$2 million toward the building of the residential center.

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