

# Gifts boost men's shelter

**Two recent \$50,000 donations have put The Healing Place close enough to its fund-raising goal that construction can begin.**

BY CHRIS JENKINS  
STAFF WRITER

**RALEIGH** — The Healing Place, an innovative shelter planned for homeless men with substance-abuse problems, said Wednesday that it has come close enough to its \$4.5 million fund-raising goal to begin building a Raleigh facility in February.

The key donations were \$50,000 each from Capital Broadcasting Co., the parent of WRAL-TV, and The Fletcher Foundation, shelter officials said.

"These donations really help us wrap things up so we can get started building," said Dennis Parnell, the shelter's executive director. "We believe we'll be able to keep our schedule of finishing the shelter in the fall."

For almost a year, the proposed shelter has received contributions from downtown Raleigh businesses, private foundations and public companies. WakeMed kicked off the donations in March with a \$2 million pledge, while smaller ones trickled in throughout the year.

Both of the most recent gifts were given in honor of two of the shelter's pioneers. The Fletcher Foundation's gift, which is the second \$50,000 donation from the organization this year, was given in the name of Barbara Goodman, vice president of the shelter. Capital Broadcasting Co.'s donation was given in recognition of Fred Barber,

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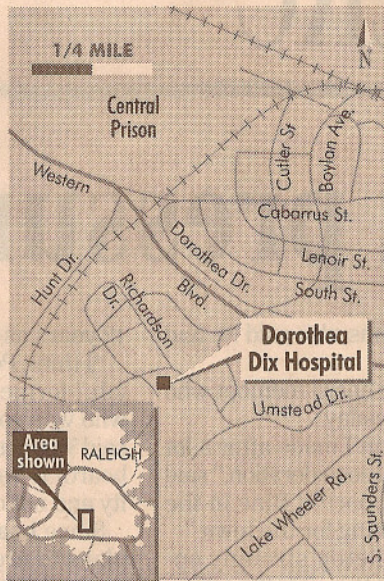
board president for The Healing Place.

"We felt our extra contribution could really put the shelter over the top and be a capstone to their fund-raising efforts," said Tom McGuire, executive director of The Fletcher Foundation.

"And it certainly is timely," he added, referring to the Christmas holiday.

Achieving the fund-raising goal for building costs completes the first phase of fund-raising for the shelter. Parnell said he and his staff will now turn to fund-raising for the shelter's annual operating expenses. He added that the shelter will hire a full-time employee to write grants and encourage donations.

Parnell said he hopes 70 percent of the projected \$1 million annual operating budget will be drawn from private sources. He added that he hopes that the downtown Raleigh business community will continue its support, and that pri-



The News & Observer

ate foundations will help as well.

"We're facing the same challenges that most nonprofits face," he said, adding that the shelter has already received a \$100,000 grant for operating costs. "We're going to need a full community effort."

The Healing Place will be built on

a 4.5-acre parcel on the campus of Dorothea Dix Hospital, just off Lake Wheeler Road in Raleigh. The horseshoe-shaped brick facility will help 165 homeless men sober up from various addictions, including alcohol and drugs.

Local activists who deal with the homeless have been excited about The Healing Place because it offers services hard to obtain for homeless men with substance-abuse problems.

Unlike many other shelters in Raleigh, men who are currently addicted to drugs or alcohol will be allowed to live at the facility, and it will offer on-site rehabilitation.

The men will attend 12-step programs and job-training classes and will receive follow-up counseling, according to shelter officials. They will be permitted to stay at the shelter until they have a job or place to live — often three to six months.

Parnell added that plans for a women's shelter are still in the works and that the agency hopes to open their facility in three years.

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