

Rome women's shelter will open in 2019

July 25, 2018

(Rome, GA) – On May 21 the Ruth and Naomi Project of Rome released a statement that they closed on the North Broad property, which will soon be home to local homeless women and children.

The Ruth and Naomi Project is an extension of the William S. Davies shelter, the local shelter for men. Rome has been notably lacking in resources for homeless women and children who are down on their luck. The emergency Salvation Army Shelter only has four beds available to women, and the Hospitality House holds their beds for domestic abuse victims, which leaves most women and children without a place to go.

When the Ruth and Naomi Project is finished it will have room for eight single women and four women with children. While there the women will be offered resources to get their GED and work on their mental health, as well as offered rehab and employment services, all while participating in a home atmosphere. They hope to be operational by the first of the year.

Monica Sheppard, a member of the Homeless Women's Task Force, explained in a previous May article on the Ruth and Naomi project "Oftentimes single moms are the ones who end up with primary responsibility for the children, and it's hard. It's hard to keep enough income coming in and still have time to be a mother. And it's terrifying for these women to feel that if they reach out for help, their kids might get taken away."

While its word of mouth campaign raised enough money to buy the former Blue Ridge Area Health Education Center upfront, the project was left with \$13,000 to complete a \$100,000 task of remodeling. The organization has hosted two workdays to recruit volunteers to remove tile flooring and wallpaper, paint, and begin yardwork. The next workday will be Saturday, June 23 at 9 am.

The new shelter still needs to replace the roof, new plumbing, remodeling of several areas in the home, furnishings for each room, and an operating fund. The June 1 performance by southern singer Michelle Malone at the Desoto Theatre jumpstarted the \$100,000 fund by donating all proceeds to the project.

If you are interested in helping through a financial donation you can submit cash or checks to The William S. Davies Homeless Shelters, Inc. by mail at PMB #198 3 Central Plaza, Rome, GA 30161 or in person at 132 E 18th Street Rome, GA 30161. There is also a donation link online at daviesshelter.com. Follow their progress and look for volunteer opportunities on their Facebook page The Ruth and Naomi Project Shelter for Women and Children.