

Today's weather



HIGH: 74
LOW: 51

Sunrise: 6:11
Sunset: 8:30

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MEDINA

Hope Recovery Community celebrates expansion; Youth Resiliency and Counseling Center opens

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

MEDINA — Approximately 100 people gathered to officially celebrate the recent expansion of Hope Recovery Community's space on Highland Drive with a ribbon-cutting on Friday morning.

The expansion adds over 2,500 square feet to its current space, at 200 Highland Drive, creating more space for the large number of people coming to attend meetings and programming.

The space is owned by the Medina County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board and with the support of board members, construction was supported by a capital grant received from the state of Ohio.

On the first level, a large meeting room has been added, along with two bathrooms and some storage in the basement.

In the large meeting room, a divider was put into the middle, which will allow smaller groups to create

their own small space.

Since its opening, Hope Recovery Community Executive Director Stefanie Robinson said there has already been an increase in the number of people coming to Hope Recovery Community.

"We've increased our daily visits by 10 and so that's over 3,000 additional people per year that are coming here," she said.

In addition to its building's expansion, Hope Recovery Community has expanded throughout the county as it

moves into spaces in Brunswick and Wadsworth, along with collaborating on the creation of Loveland Farms on state Route 18.

"We build the space, you use the space. We add more space, you fill the space," said Phillip Titterington, Medina County ADAMH Board executive director. "You're in Brunswick, you're in Wadsworth, you're expanding. You've used the space, and you use it very well."

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EXPANDS

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Titterington said that Medina County has become a model for recovery and mental health services throughout the state and country.

He attributed it to the community leaders, board members and those in recovery, for all the work done in providing resources.

"It all started with believing in recovery because recovery is possible," Robinson said. "Recovery is happening. People just need to have access to it."

In addition to celebrating the expansion of Hope Recovery Community, the ADAMH Board celebrated the opening of the newly constructed Youth Resiliency and Counseling Center on Friday.

The Youth Resiliency and Counseling Center, 177 Northland Drive, is a 6,000-square-foot space created to provide counseling services for youth and families through a partnership with OhioGuidestone.

"Our vision for the center is a place of learning, healing and growth," said Melissa Romain, regional director of Medina County for OhioGuidestone. "In this building, we will bring families together to learn how to handle the stress of day-to-day life and live joyfully together. Children who come here will experience therapy in the most innovative ways possible through play, art and movement."

The Youth Resiliency and Counseling Center includes creative rooms like a sand room, an art room, a play room and more for children to engage in therapy in different ways.

Romain said that the space was designed with the interests of both the clients and staff in mind, making it a more inviting space with bright colors,



SARA CRAWFORD / GAZETTE PHOTOS

ABOVE: Hope Recovery Community, located at 200 Highland Drive, celebrated its expansion of over 2,500 square feet to its current space on Friday. **BELOW:** The Youth Resiliency and Counseling Center, located at 177 Northland Drive, celebrated its opening on Friday.



adding in technology and making the spaces flexible.

Titterington said that while the space may be a bit empty now, he encouraged everyone to come back in a year to hear about the work done for youths and families.

"You work with youth and families who are in trauma now, you're going to see the reward later," he said. "We are looking forward to that."

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