

Town of Oakland Receives Major Grant to Benefit Dove Center

Mayor Peggy Jamison on Friday, August 13, announced to staff and board members of the Dove Center that the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded the Town of Oakland a Community Development Block Grant.

The grant of \$800,000 ensures that the Dove Center's dream of a new facility will be a reality in less than eighteen months. The facility will provide storage space, private offices for administrators and counselors, and safe, secure shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Criteria for the grant included demonstrated need and community support for a new facility. Demonstrating need for the facility was relatively easy. That the current shelter, with one bathroom, sometimes houses as many as fifteen people is clear evidence of need.



Showing evidence of community support figured to be the more difficult task. Two years ago the Center under the leadership of Edna Forsyth organized Capital Campaign II, setting a goal of \$200,000, a quarter of the amount applied for in the grant. Everybody set out to ask friends, family, neighbors, and businesses for anything they could give. Garrett Countians came through and then some. To date, according to Capital Campaign II chairman Pam Trickett, the total campaign effort has raised about \$289,000 with donations still coming in.

At a brief celebration on Friday the 13th (with nobody missing the irony of the date), board chairman Dorothy Tuel said, "This was truly a community effort. We couldn't have made it without help from Peggy Jamison, Duane Yoder, Kristan Carter, and Cherie Ross. We can't thank everybody enough." Dove Center executive director Heather Hanline, who spearheaded much of the effort through grant writing and record keeping, simply said, "We did it."

Garrett County will have a comfortable, much needed facility in which to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault put their lives back together.



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