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[Isaiah House expands services with Willisburg facility](#)

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WILLISBURG - Thanks to the donation from a generous couple, Isaiah House Drug and Alcohol Recovery Center in Hustonville is expanding its services to a facility in Washington County.

"We hope to make more of an impact on the area because there is such a need," said Mark LaPalme, executive director of the Isaiah House centers.

Gary and Anita Johnson donated the 35,000-square-foot, 72-bed facility at 2084 Main St. in Willisburg. LaPalme said with the inventory that also was donated, the property is valued at about \$1.25 million.

"Every county should have one of these," LaPalme added.

Dialogue about the new Isaiah House, which used to be Care Academy for juveniles, started last January, LaPalme said. With the \$1 million price tag, he said Isaiah House could not afford to even think about purchasing it. Many months had gone by when he received a phone call letting him know that the Johnsons wanted to donate the facility. The deal closed Dec. 26.

The building contains six counseling offices, a medical room, gymnasium, weight room, commercial kitchen, game room, TV room, library and a potential detox room.

Right now 15 men occupy the facility, which they moved into Friday. LaPalme said in the near future that number will be 25, then increased by five men a month until the

number reaches 50. Funding has to be in place first, though, before numbers can be increased.

"We could be filled tomorrow if we had the funding," he said.

Original Lincoln facility will house women

The original facility at 2415 Mount Salem Road in Lincoln County will now house women in need of drug and alcohol recovery. But without start-up funding and staff, those plans are on hold. LaPalme is confident the money will come, though. "I haven't even thought of it like that," he said. "It will come. Just open up and let God be God."

LaPalme said the Hustonville location will require about \$200,000 for start-up costs and to hire staff for the 20 women the center will hold. Not all logistics are complete, but he said the center may try to accommodate children of the women who live there as well.

Utility costs for the Hustonville location run about \$600 a month, LaPalme said. The Willisburg facility will cost about \$4,000 a month in utilities.

Each person who stays at the center pays \$840 a month. He said the actual cost to house them is about \$1,600. That's supplemented through other sources including donations from churches and the community.

He said the new facility is a state-approved one but will likely get no funding because it is faith-based.

"There's such a need for this," LaPalme said. "There's just no funding."

Adam West, 24, of Butler County said he's been to several recovery centers around the state. Finding the Isaiah House was a blessing.

"This one beats them," he said. "There's no measure."

Choe Sergent, 26, has been with the Isaiah House for seven months. He said he went to other facilities where they treated his addiction with more drugs. He said the Isaiah House showed him he's not alone in his battle.

The numbers

"You think no one knows how you feel," he said. "They showed me that Christ felt what I felt. ... I think it's going to be a great (facility) to serve more people. The surrounding counties don't really have a faith-based facility."

LaPalme said the Isaiah House is an eight- to 10-month program that requires participants to have a home church, job, apartment, accountability group and accountability partner before being discharged. He said each person is tracked for five years. If someone is discharged after 10 months, monthly phone calls and urine tests are required until the 15-month mark. The phone call checkups continue until the five-year mark.

LaPalme said last year's statistics show that 78 percent of men who were law offenders participating in the Isaiah House program did not re-offend. He added that about 92 percent stay drug- and alcohol-free after they leave.

People can voluntarily apply to participate in the Isaiah House program, be referred or be court-ordered to attend. About half are court-ordered, LaPalme said.

For more information about either Isaiah House Drug and Alcohol Recovery centers, call (859) 375-9201 or (606) 346-9868.

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Brett Barrett, 24, of Barbourville moves a desk in his room at the new Isaiah House in Willisburg. (Stephanie Schell photo)



Tim Miller of Somerset adds a coat of paint to an office at the new Isaiah House Drug and Alcohol Recovery Center in Willisburg. (Stephanie Schell photo)