



BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT

AN OVERWHELMING NEED

The ever-increasing demand for almost every service Neighborhood Alliance provides has resulted in a waitlist for most programs.

Neighborhood Alliance is uniquely positioned to assist local residents when circumstances change and the reality of making some of life's most difficult choices sets in.

The Building Renovation Project is a six-phase multi-site building renovation project, beginning with the renovation of the former YMCA building and transformation of current building on Lorain Rd.

Neighborhood Alliance has the capability, the programming, the expertise, and the desire to meet the ever-growing need.

The only impediment to growth is lack of space.



Emergency Shelter

The Haven Center is Lorain County's only 24-hour, 365-day emergency shelter for men, women, and children (intact families).

- There are only two homeless shelters in Lorain County.
- Haven Center's capacity has been reduced by 50% to allow for social distancing.
- After hours, Neighborhood Alliance is flooded with calls for help. If the agency doesn't have a bed, arrangements are made for hotel rooms, which cost upwards of \$10,000 monthly.

Current Spacing Challenges

- 75 or more shelter residents are sharing just two common bathrooms, or Neighborhood Alliance is paying to house them in hotels.
- Temporary walls have been added in the conference and break rooms to make offices.
- Program staff have made offices in closets by taking off the doors and adding a small desk.

Senior Nutrition and Services

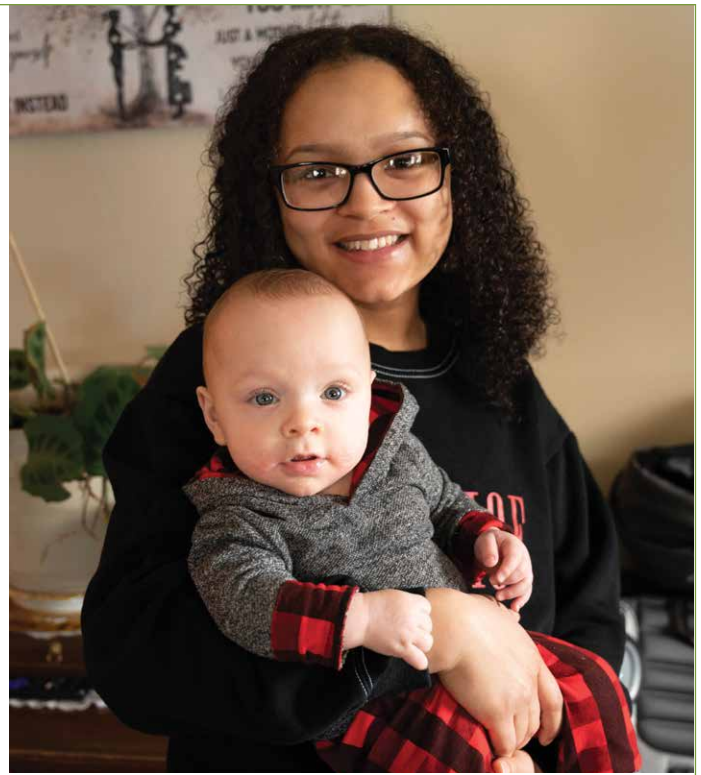
The senior population is expected to dramatically increase with the aging baby boomers. The demand for senior meals and enrichment (socialization, well-check calls, supportive services) is expected to skyrocket.

- Neighborhood Alliance provides 80% of the home delivered meals to seniors in Lorain County.
- All deliveries are made by paid staff, not volunteers. This consistency allows deliveries to become critical well checks and social opportunities for seniors.
- During this crisis, the wait list for the Home Delivered Meals program ballooned from 250 to 500 people, in addition to the 300 seniors already receiving services.

The former YMCA building will become a New Community Center and the administrative offices for Neighborhood Alliance.

Phase One of this project focuses on the site of the former YMCA building which was donated to Neighborhood Alliance in 2020 after standing empty for 14 years.

The building is in need of significant capital repairs including upgraded electrical, plumbing, and HVAC as well as a new elevator shaft and loading dock. Additional demolition and construction is required to utilize all available space.



Goals for New Community Center

- Gorgeous historic building renovated into a community center in the heart of Elyria for residents to gather, exercise, learn and more.
- Service delivery now available in downtown Elyria making them accessible to local residents, bus lines and other county transportation routes.
- Indoor gymnasium making physical activity available to children, seniors and the greater community as well as additional space for warming centers and community events.
- Large commercial kitchen which enables the agency to cater its own nutritious meals for its students, homebound seniors, and homeless clients at a significant cost savings.
- Expansion of outreach programming including the Help Me Grow program for new moms and the Early Intervention program for children with developmental delays.

The former administrative offices located on East 30th in Lorain will be transformed into the new Haven Center, a three-floor shelter for men, women and families.

During Phase One of this project all three floors will be renovated solely for shelter and emergency services. One floor will be dedicated to families and will include a play area, family room and separate kitchenette. A 9,262 sq. ft. extension will be added along with a center courtyard and playground.



Goals for The Haven Center

- A place for homeless families that feels like home, including a dedicated play area for children, a living room and kitchenette.
- Reduced number of persons per crowded bedroom that comply with social distance guidelines. Currently there can be up to seven people per room.
- Private, socially distant offices for mental health counselors to meet with clients.
- Ability to separate men as well as PATH clients (those with mental disorders and/or sexual offenses) from children and families.
- Offices/spaces for partner agencies to provide support and transition services for clients.
- Upgraded security and camera systems for the safety of all staff and clients.
- Upgraded locations (Elyria and Lorain) to now meet ADA compliant guidelines. Currently clients who use a wheelchair cannot access all services, and in the shelter, he/she must eat separately from the rest of the group because of the stairs.

OUR PROGRESS

March 2022	Kitchen construction began
February 2022	City of Elyria construction approval
January 2022	Kitchen equipment ordered (\$300,000)
July 2021	City of Lorain approved Haven Center architectural drawings
May 2021	City of Lorain approved City View Center architectural drawings
September 1, 2021	Lorain County commissioners approved \$500,000 for the kitchen construction
Aug. 4, 2021	Lorain Zoning Board of Appeals approved a variance to build an addition on the Haven Center
January 21, 2021	Rezoning approval Washington Ave., allowing for the kitchen construction
December 2020	Final architectural drawings completed
November 2020	Administrative and Home Visitation staff moved into Washington Ave.
November 2020	City of Elyria granted partial occupancy of Washington Ave.
April to November 2020	Necessary upgrades completed (totaling more than \$50,000): emergency lights, toilets, doors, fire exits, sprinkler system, fire alarm wiring, filled holes, ceiling tiles, electrical boxes and outlets, suppression system, heating, cooling
Early 2020	265 Washington Ave. (site for former YMCA) was donated to Neighborhood Alliance

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Mail checks labeled:
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