

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Kelly Sears and Nancy Schulze are working hard to inform everyone about The Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus planned in Council Bluffs. They provided an overview of the nearly six block project area to be used for the campus construction, which will begin in a few months. Sears is Executive Director of Boys and Girls Clubs in Omaha, and Schulze is Acting Director of MICA House and Director of Heartland Family Services both in Council Bluffs. These organizations plus the Salvation Army and American Red Cross are part of this effort to provide better services to the Council Bluffs area. Sears explained that this collaborative effort of five social service entities is unique and has taken two years to develop. Schultz explained the different buildings to be constructed on the campus. MICA House will move to new facilities doubling its capacity to provide for families and single women who are temporarily homeless. Red Cross and Salvation Army will benefit from expanded and shared facilities. According to Sears the primary benefits of the new campus facilities will be improved client services, and cost savings in social program collaboration and construction. The project cost is nearly thirty four million dollars including an endowment of five million. Sears said funding has come from many sources. The major source has been the Charles E. Lakin family (twelve million dollars). Other funds have come from foundation grants, and business, church, community group, and individual contributions. According to Sears the remaining fund raising goal is a little over five million. She said they are looking for about half million from a community campaign running through this spring. Sears said their motto is 'Together Everyone Achieves More', and representatives of the collaborating organizations would like to speak about the campus project to any community group. She can be reached at (402) 342-1600.