

# Fort Collins homeless resource center offers hope, help

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FORT COLLINS — A new homeless resource center in north Fort Collins will open for business Monday.

The Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope, a \$2.5 million project, will provide services for the homeless and near homeless such as counseling, housing assistance and employment resources with the help of several area nonprofit organizations.

The public can join organizers Friday for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, building dedication and tour of the new facility.

“It’s really been a wonderful model of community collaboration,” said project manager Kim Iwanski.

The facility is at the intersection of Blue Spruce Drive and Conifer Street in north Fort Collins. It will be run by staff from the Larimer Center for Mental Health and several organizations such as Neighbor to Neighbor, the Fort Collins Housing Authority and Northern Colorado AIDS Project.

There is a lab with eight computers for people to work on their résumés and search for jobs. There are also four public phones, and the Center for Hope has the capability to set up a couple hundred private voice mailboxes for people to use.

There are also showers in the building for people to use.

“We want to make sure people have what they need to get ready for a job,” Iwanski said.

The facility is 10,000 square feet and can serve more than 200 people at a time, according to a news release.

Although it is located in north Fort Collins, it is open to people throughout Larimer County. Center staffers are working on getting transportation for people from outside Fort Collins to the center, Iwanski said.

Center organizers have funding for the first year of operations, which they estimate will cost \$350,000, but they are trying to get the funding for the first three years secure, Iwanski said.

While they have about the first two and a half years covered, they still are seeking donations.