

**1. THE NEED:** Gryphon Place has been serving the community for more than 40 years while being housed in a 100-year old firehouse on the corner of Wheaton and Westnedge Avenue in Kalamazoo. Gryphon Place has grown in response to community needs and there is a need to relocate to another facility.

**2. EVIDENCE OF NEED:** Gryphon Place is a community-wide agency whose services are unique. We cross all social and economic boundaries, connect other human service agencies, save taxpayer dollars by avoiding duplication of services, and provide help and access without discrimination. When Gryphon Place opened its doors in 1970, no one imagined how many lives would be touched. This year, more than 96,000 people will receive help from one of Gryphon Place's key programs. We now need a community-wide response to our facility and programming needs.

The current facility is not accessible to all people thereby preventing those with disabilities to attend meetings or training functions. This inaccessibility is also a barrier for many who would otherwise volunteer at Gryphon Place. An old, wooden, steep stairway that contains two 90° turns is the only access to the training room upstairs, Lack of privacy. The facility is so old that someone outside the facility can be heard inside. There is a lack of total privacy for discussion. This is vital to the mediation process of the Dispute Resolution Program. Lighting is inadequate. Security and personal safety are issues because of the location: Shift workers arrive and depart throughout the night. There is no parking lot and parking is extremely limited on the side street. Staff functions are compromised by overcrowding.

**3. PLAN OF ACTION:** Gryphon Place has literally changed the lives of thousands of people throughout the area over the past 40 years. We are now asking the community to support our effort to raise \$1.9 million to purchase and renovate a facility that will accommodate Gryphon Place's long-term needs, invest in long-term operational costs and increase endowment funding to provide for long-range stability of the organization.

**4. BENEFITS:** Moving to a different location offers numerous benefits.

- Expansion of programs within increased working space.
- Realignment of offices to increase efficiency.
- Increased security as a 24/7 operation.
- Addition of a parking area.
- Availability of private, confidential rooms for mediations and HELP-Line operations.
- Increase in the endowment fund for long-range stability of the agency.

**5. CONCLUSION:** Gryphon Place has grown its programming to meet the expanding needs of people in our community and the State of Michigan. Our business model has been to diversify funding streams and to directly market our services throughout Michigan. We have been successful in developing more than 20 new contracts over the past decade bringing significant revenue into the local economy. However, we have greatly surpassed the capacity of our current facility and have no effective means of adding services to address the ever-growing needs of our community. This Campaign will enable Gryphon Place to move to a newer, more accommodating facility.