



News Release

January 23, 2020

Contact:

Laura Maher, Strategic Communications Manager

Phone: 779-348-7331

E-mail: Laura.Maher@rockfordil.gov

Phase 1 Location of Family Peace Center Announced

ROCKFORD, III. – Mayor Tom McNamara, joined by Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, announced today that the Phase 1 location of the Family Peace Center will be 313 N. Main Street. The space, currently owned by the City of Rockford and occupied by the Region 1 Planning Council, is located in downtown Rockford, near the Winnebago County Courthouse and directly on a bus route.

Tentatively set to open on July 1, the Phase 1 location will house the Family Peace Center for at least two years, while a permanent location is acquired and renovated. The Center will open gradually with initial operating hours two days a week.

“I’m excited to get Phase 1 up and running. We’ve been working with our partners for the last year to get us to this point,” says Mayor McNamara. “Our goal is to change the experience for survivors and their children. We want to help them navigate the many services they need while feeling believed and supported.”

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), U.S. Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (D-IL-17), and U.S. Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL-11) were instrumental in helping the City receive a nearly \$450,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women in 2018 to establish and operate this center.

“I’m proud to have helped secure the federal funding needed to establish the Family Peace Center, which will provide survivors and their families with the resources and support they need to heal and move forward,” says Senator Durbin. “I applaud Mayor McNamara and his team for engaging the community on this issue, and I will continue advocating for their efforts at the federal level.”

“Domestic violence impacts us all, in every town and every community. That’s why it was important for me to partner with Mayor Tom McNamara to create one single facility where survivors and their families can turn in their darkest hours,” said Congresswoman Bustos. “This new center will be a sanctuary. From crisis intervention to long-term support, survivors of domestic violence can get all the help they need in one location. Most of all, they will have a place where they know they are not alone. Thank you to the Mayor for all of his leadership to improve Rockford’s services to survivors of domestic violence.”

Many partners signed on as part of the federal grant to help plan and establish the Family Peace Center, along with the City of Rockford:

- Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling
- Remedies Renewing Lives
- Carrie Lynn Children’s Center
- Children’s Safe Harbor
- Northern Illinois University College of Law Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic
- Rockford Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
- Rockford Police Department
- Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office
- Winnebago County State’s Attorney’s Office
- 17th Judicial Circuit Domestic Violence Coordinated Courts

There are also additional agencies that intend to partner with the City on Phase 1, which include:

- Youth Services Network
- Prairie State Legal Services
- MERIT

About the Family Peace Center

The Family Peace Center is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary co-located service center that provides services to victims of inter-personal violence. Both public and private partner agencies assign staff on a full-time or part-time basis to provide services from one location. The facility focuses on reducing the number of times survivors tell their story and the number of places survivors must go for help, as well as increases access to services and support for survivors and their children.

###