

WOMEN TO GET OVERNIGHT SHELTER BEFORE SNOW FLIES

John 3:16 Mission will soon provide overnight shelter for homeless women. Additionally, the Mission has moved its daytime program for homeless and at-risk women out of the downtown Tulsa shelter to another nearby Mission property.

That property, called The Refuge, was formerly Chouteau Elementary school. The Mission acquired the school after it closed in 2011.

The move comes ahead of plans to create a fulltime, live-in recovery program for Tulsa's homeless and at-risk women (See Pastor Steve's Column in this newsletter).

"We're excited to get this going," said **Pastor Steve Whitaker**, the *Mission's President and CEO*. "Our goal is to have

a live-in program up and running by the time the snow flies."

Moving the women out of downtown makes sense because it provides safety, security and a nurturing environment without the temptations (drugs and alcohol) and the dangers of downtown streets.

"We've seen a spike in homeless women being abused on the streets," Pastor Steve said. "We want to put an end to that and make sure they have a safe place to escape and recover."

Daytime services will continue with anywhere from 6 to 20 homeless women attending each day. Future plans call for onsite shelter and programming for up to 30 women.

FROM THE PRESIDENT & SR PASTOR

TIME TO STEP UP MINISTRY TO HOMELESS WOMEN

If you've paid attention to the local news this summer, you've probably heard the horrific stories of homeless women on the streets of Tulsa who have been sexually assaulted, even killed.

Life on the streets is terrible for anyone, but even more so for women who can be victimized by men.

We need to help them. We need to get them off the streets for good.

I'm not exaggerating when I say the plight of homeless women has been burning a hole in my heart and in the hearts of all of us who work, volunteer and donate to John 3:16 Mission.

That's why John 3:16 Mission is on the verge of greatly expanding and enhancing its outreach and recovery program for women. As most of you

know, the Mission - thanks to its faithful donors - has probably the best Christian recovery program in the region for homeless men. And, about 10 years ago, we started a daytime-only program to assist homeless women.

Now we must do more. There are too many women on the streets who need the kind of holistic programming offered only in an environment built on Christian recovery principles.

The Mission Board of Directors and I have taken it upon ourselves to see to it that homeless women will find overnight shelter and recovery programming at John 3:16 Mission by the time snow flies this coming winter.

To accomplish this, we are renovating a portion of our Refuge location (just

northwest of downtown Tulsa). Here, ladies will find a safe, welcoming environment. Over time, we will expand this so up to 30 homeless women can experience Christ-centered recovery in a live-in, program setting.

We are excited about this plan and we ask that you pray fervently - and give as you are led - so that lives can be saved and restored. As the Bible says in Proverbs, if it's within our power to help, then we should do so. Amen!

In His Service,



Rev. Steve Whitaker
President

**DO NOT WITHHOLD GOOD FROM THOSE WHO DESERVE IT
WHEN IT'S IN YOUR POWER TO HELP THEM**