

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HFS MOVE TO 301 SECOND STREET EAST AND THE “BRING THE MISSION HOME” CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

Q - Why did HFS move so quickly?”

A - “This was not a hasty decision. We’ve had a space needs committee since 2007 so we’ve been planning for this for a long time. We moved in February, as that is when our lease expired. We were able to negotiate a more affordable lease at the Second Street location, which expedited the decision to move on February 15, 2011. We are initially leasing the space at 301 Second Street and intend to eventually purchase the building. ”

Q - “Why did you choose the property at 301 Second Street East – (the art gallery / Spiral co-op / Eddy’s Drug space)?”

A - “We considered a number of properties in Hastings. During a community survey a couple years ago, people felt we should stay downtown. This is a good downtown location with a good storefront for the Clothes Closet & More, and the Co-op is already a place where food is distributed. There is a separate entrance for client services and plenty of space to provide our clients with more privacy. We also hope to utilize space to collaborate with other organizations to provide additional services.”

Q - “What is happening to Spiral Foods Coop?”

A - “Spiral Foods is excited about the opportunity to move to a different space. HFS feels that Spiral Coop is a vital part of the community and is working closely with them to help them transition to their new location sometime in the summer of 2011.”

Q - “Isn’t HFS a nonprofit? How can HFS afford to buy the property at 301 Second Street East?”

A - “HFS is a non-profit, but we can actually purchase the property for less than what we would pay to lease that amount of space, so it makes good financial sense and it supports our value of being good stewards of the financial resources we have been given. It is a great market right now and leasing the amount of space we need is unaffordable. The new location provides more privacy and confidentiality for clients and a greater capacity to accept donations for the food shelf and the Clothes Closet.”

Q - “How is HFS going to pay for it?”

A - “HFS has begun fundraising for the purchase and renovation of the building through our “Bring the Mission Home” capital campaign. The goal is to “Bring the Mission Home” by raising one million dollars. By eliminating the occupancy expense of a lease or a mortgage, those dollars can be better spent providing hungry families with food and other resources.”

Q - “Why a \$1 million campaign? Is that what the building will cost?”

A - “We’ve set a million dollar campaign goal to not only cover the costs of purchasing the building, but also to help cover the renovations or improvements needed as well as enhance our operating endowment to help cover the costs of owning and operating the building. **By reducing the occupancy costs, between \$50k and \$60k/year will be made available for programs and to directly help the people in our community who need assistance.”**

Q – “Who can participate in the Campaign?”

A - “Individuals and businesses within the community will be asked to support our efforts to improve services for those among us who need a little extra help and hope. We will also be writing grant applications to a number of foundations and funders both inside and outside the community to reach the campaign goal. There will be opportunities after the campaign is publicly launched for everyone to get involved in some way. Since one in every eight people in School District 200 is served by one or more of the HFS programs, this is a unique opportunity for every person in the community to pool their resources and have a significant impact on the future landscape of the community we know and love.”

Q – “What is the best way to help HFS achieve their campaign goal?”

A - “Please gather your friends and visit HFS to learn more about our programs and what can be accomplished in the new location. You can get involved as a volunteer for the organization or specifically for the campaign. Consider a gift to the campaign – every dollar makes a difference! And please continue the critical support for the food shelf and other emergency services with your donations of food, clothing and money. It is critical during the campaign that the level of support for the current programs and services is maintained.”

Q - “With all that extra space, what new programs will you be offering?”

A - “We are going to be focused on the programs we already have first – improving the food shelf experience, providing more privacy for clients, and providing a more customer-friendly space for the Clothes Closet so we can generate more revenue from the store to support our programs. But we are excited about having additional space to collaborate with other organizations to offer additional programs such as financial literacy or a Meals on Wheels sliding fee scale to serve a greater number of our aging population. We will be looking at many opportunities but that will be awhile down the road.”

If you have additional questions about the campaign or how to make a difference, please contact Amy Sutton, Resource Development Direction at HFS at 437-7134 or amysutton@hastingsfamilyservice.org. All inquiries are confidential and there are numerous ways to get involved. Gifts can include monetary donations, stocks, property and planned gifts. Did you know that a commitment of just \$10/month over the 5 year pledge period provides a \$600 gift to the campaign, and when we reach the goal, you will have helped to free up over \$50,000 each year to feed hungry families? Your gift counts, no matter the size, and we can make it an easy choice to make a difference in the lives of others! Please help us “Bring the Mission Home” if you are able!