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For News and/or Community and/or Religion Editor(s)

Dunham Fund Awards Grant to Wayside Cross Ministries

\$500,000 grant will be used to construct a new facility for men and ministry offices

Aurora, Ill., June 28, 2013 (The Religion Wire™) — Wayside

Cross Ministries (WCM) is pleased to announce the awarding of a

\$500,000 grant from the Dunham Fund in Aurora to support construction of a new 47,000 sq. ft., four-story facility at its current location, 215 E. New York St. Two of the current 100-year-old buildings will be demolished to accommodate the new structure.

The Dunham Educational Center on the second floor will provide a location for WCM's four-phase program, a computer-aided learning center, classrooms for financial management courses, life skills courses, job readiness training, private counseling, a library and study areas.

WCM's construction committee determined that ground would not be broken until \$5.5 million had been raised out of the \$7.9 million project. In addition to the \$500,000 from the Dunham Fund, WCM's "Bridge to Life" Campaign has raised \$4.5 million to date. Combined with additional funds committed by New Markets Tax Credit, by mid-August WCM will surpass the \$5.5 million threshold.

WCM has six ministry divisions. The men's ministry residents, resident staff and general offices will be housed in the new facility.



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From its timely beginnings in 1928 as a rescue mission for transient men, Wayside Cross has developed transitional ministries for men, women and their children, at-risk youth, the incarcerated, and ex-offenders. Current programs include Master's Touch men's and Lifespring women's residential life transformation programs, Hope Outreach, Elgin Wayside Center day facility and support program, the DuPage County Initiative for the homeless, New Life Corrections for youth and adult offenders in Illinois prisons and Urban Youth Ministry for Aurora's youth in at-risk areas and circumstances.

WCM Executive Director, James Lukose said, "Dunham's generosity will go a long way toward providing a new Educational Center for the residents of Master's Touch Ministry. We are very delighted to receive such a major gift from the Dunham Fund and WCM is indeed a thrilled beneficiary."

For more information about WCM and its "Bridge to Life" campaign visit www.waysidecross.org/about/BridgeToLife.php.

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A digital image of the future WCM facility is available at...

http://public.gospel-net.com/WCM_New_Building.jpg