

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

Contact:
Debbie Butler
Communications Director
(630) 723-3419
dbutler@waysidecross.org

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Wayside Cross Ministries Plans Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Facility on October 25

Aurora, Ill., Sept. 24, 2013 (The Religion Wire™) — In the planning stages for over four years, Aurora-based Wayside Cross Ministries (WCM) has issued a public invitation for a



groundbreaking ceremony on Friday Oct. 25, 10 a.m., for their construction of a new 47,000 sq. ft., four-story facility at their current location of 215 E. New York St.

Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner and other local, state, and federal dignitaries will participate in the ceremony and be joined by project supporters including U.S. Bank, Consortium America, and HomeTown National Bank. Refreshments will be served. RSVP is requested by contacting Debbie Butler at (630) 723-3419, or dbutler@waysidecross.org.

Two of their 100-year-old buildings will be demolished to accommodate the new structure.

The new building will contain classrooms and counseling offices, kitchen facilities and dining hall. The living quarters will be designed to serve individuals enrolled in seven to 18 month programs.

The men's ministry and general offices will be housed in the new facility. The offices include the WCM Executive Director's office, the business office, development offices, and the ministry offices for Master's Touch Ministry, Urban Youth Ministry, and New Life Corrections Ministry.

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WCM raised the funds necessary for the development using New Markets Tax Credits (NMTCs) allocated by Consortium Capital of Washington, DC, which generated a more than \$2.7 million capital investment from U.S. Bank. Additional financing was provided by HomeTown National Bank (HNB) of LaSalle, Ill.

In addition to NMTC and HBN financing, WCM received a \$500,000 grant from the Dunham Fund. WCM's "Bridge to Life" capital campaign raised some \$4.5 million from donors.

In response to the October groundbreaking ceremony, WCM Executive Director, James Lukose stated, "This is a great time of rejoicing, praise, and thanksgiving to God and to our savior, Jesus Christ. Our great pool of donors, financing by HNB and finally the NMTC equity has put this building project in the fast lane. Humanly speaking, this became a reality by the tremendous support from the U.S. Bank leadership team at both their Chicago and St. Louis offices. This new building will truly be a great tool for blessing to our resident men and for our staff and volunteers for years to come."

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.

WCM has six ministry divisions. Current programs include two life-transformational programs - Master's Touch Ministry for men and Lifespring Ministry for women and children, Hope Outreach, Elgin Wayside Center day facility and support program, the DuPage County Initiative for the homeless, New Life Corrections Ministry for youth and adult offenders in Illinois prisons, and Urban Youth Ministry for Aurora's youth in at-risk areas and circumstances.

For more information about WCM please visit www.waysidecross.org .

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A digital image of the future WCM facility is available at... http://public.gospel-net.com/WCM_New_Building.jpg