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Friday, November 9, 2007

Shelter closes in on \$4M capital campaign goal

WEAVE raising funds to build 80-bed crisis center

Sacramento Business Journal - by [Kelly Johnson](#) Staff writer

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WEAVE Inc.'s first capital campaign, which went public last week, is already more than halfway home in its efforts to raise \$4 million for a larger domestic violence shelter.

The nonprofit provider of crisis intervention services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Sacramento County has raised almost \$2.4 million. The \$4 million will allow WEAVE to build a new shelter of 80 beds, provide additional services and convert its present 35-bed shelter into space for administration and counseling services.

WEAVE's new shelter will offer almost as many beds as what's currently provided by all the domestic violence shelters in the four-county region. Five nonprofits collectively offer 83 beds; 18 of those are in the far reaches of the region around Tahoe.

The 29-year-old WEAVE -- Women Escaping a Violent Environment -- has not added beds since opening its current safe house in 1986, when the county had a couple hundred-thousand fewer residents and less demand for services.

In last week's capital campaign kickoff, WEAVE announced it had received its largest-ever gift from a single non-government source: \$500,000 from the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians, owner of **Cache Creek Casino Resort** in Brooks.

Phil Isenberg, the campaign's chairman and a former state legislator and mayor of Sacramento, figures he'll be able to convince potential contributors to give when they understand that eligible people and their families are turned away because the shelter lacks room. During those times, WEAVE steers people to temporarily stay with friends or family.

WEAVE executives hope to break ground early next year on the



Noel Neuburger | Sacramento Business Journal

Crowded rooms at WEAVE's safe house highlight the need for a new building the organization hopes to build next year.

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12,500-square-foot building, which will be constructed adjacent to the existing 4,755-square-foot safe house at an undisclosed location in Sacramento. The shelter would open sometime in 2009, said Julie Bornhoeft, director of development and community relations.

The catalyst for the group's capital campaign came from \$1 million WEAVE received in 2005 from the state Proposition 46 Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2002. When the Rumsey Community Fund silently committed \$500,000 to WEAVE a year ago, "it really gave us the confidence to go out and talk to other donors" for the campaign and shelter project, said Beth Hassett, WEAVE executive director.

"I say kudos to the individuals and businesses involved who clearly understand the personal and economic toll that domestic violence can have and are working to stop it," said Ann Lucas, executive director of the **Nonprofit Resource Center** in Sacramento.

WEAVE's prospects for reaching its \$4 million goal are good given its "excellent track record," said Marivic Mabanag, executive director of the **California Partnership to End Domestic Violence**, based in Sacramento. "I think they have an excellent chance."

Many domestic violence organizations statewide are reaching their 20th or 30th year, which is a "crucial time to show longevity," she said. These organizations, she added, have evolved and are diversifying their services and sources of funding.

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