

Grant to fund renovations of Magdalene House

Staff report
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MARTINSVILLE

The Magdalene House in Martinsville, currently being renovated by Stability First for use as a shelter for women, is among the 24 projects across Indiana and Michigan being funded by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis 2016 Affordable Housing Program, according to a press release. Each year the FHLBI reinvests 10 percent of their net earnings in affordable housing projects. These grants support initiatives for individuals and families whose incomes are 80 percent or less of the local median.

The FHLBI has been described as "a bank for banks," according to the release. Member banks and related financial institutions act as a cooperative to provide lower cost borrowing benefits and similar services to all participating banks, who in turn pass on competitive rates to local consumers. As a FHLBI member bank, Home Bank, working with leaders from Stability First, submitted the application for the competitive grant program in April. Awards totaling over \$9.5 million for all funded projects were announced via a joint teleconference on Aug. 3.

The grant, totaling \$285,100, will cover the total cost of all renovations at the Magdalene House, 232 N. Marion St. The funds will cover all design and construction costs associated with transforming the space, including the creation of four large bedrooms for 16 residents, the addition of handicapped restroom and shower facilities, the creation of a space for a secure entry and check-in, the addition of a sprinkler system, a new roof and many other projects.

When completed, the Magdalene House will provide shelter for homeless women who do not have dependent children living with them. In addition to shelter, residents will receive services designed to assist them in working through an individualized stability plan, including educational opportunities, specific job readiness skills, health and wellness, transportation resources, mental health services, addiction recovery programming, spiritual guidance and other support services.

"About a year and a half ago, a group of folks took the risk of positioning ourselves to fulfill what we believed to be a calling from God to work together to bring stability into the lives of many of our friends and neighbors," Eastview Christian Church pastor Rick Miller, who is involved with Stability First, said in the release. "As a collaborative, faith based initiative, we trust that God will provide all we need to change lives and communities for the better. Resources follow vision and this grant is one more example of His ability to resource what He calls us to do.

"We are extremely grateful to God and to our friends at FHLBI."

Lisa Arnold, Home Bank's Senior Vice-President and Chief Operations Officer, said, "Home Bank has had a strong relationship with FHLBI as a member bank for many decades. It is an honor to partner with them and Stability First in supporting this important work for our community."

Stability First will hold a special "Denim & Diamonds" dinner and silent auction on Oct. 7 at Jones Crossing Banquet Center in Camby. Emmy award-winning journalist and broadcaster Anne Ryder will be the featured speaker. To register and purchase tickets, visit qtego.net/qmlink/stabilityfirst.