



# Moorestown Community House seeking funds

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By Chris Bishop Staff Writer

MOORESTOWN — The Moorestown Community House, like other nonprofits, has been struggling to meet its needs.

The stately residence, on East Main Street, is seeking help from the public to raise \$2 million for a variety of improvements for the 88-year-old building.

The Community House, which opened in 1926, has launched its first major fundraising effort, the “Our Unity Capital Campaign,” with a dedicated website, [www.ourcommunityhouse.com](http://www.ourcommunityhouse.com).

“The needs right now are substantial,” said executive director William F. Newborg, a township resident who will be retiring at the end of the summer.

He made it clear that all renovations are expensive.

“For example, redoing our parking lot,” Newborg said. “We have estimates ranging from \$77,000 to \$300,000, and that’s an awful lot of money for a place that is here for nonprofits and as such really doesn’t charge that much to rent rooms.”

Newborg, 71, gave a brief tour of the building Tuesday as he discussed the organization’s needs.

The house not only holds meetings and events, but also provides space for nonprofits such as the Interfaith Hospitality Network, which moved into the building early this month. The network tries to help working homeless families find affordable housing. It works through a consortium of churches in Burlington County and previously was based in Mount Laurel.

Why the need for \$2 million?

Funding is vital for capital improvements, mortgage repayment, and permanent maintenance fund replenishment, Newborg said.

A five-year capital projects improvement plan outlined the house’s needs, totaling \$1 million, officials said.

The projects will ensure that the building is functioning more efficiently and at peak capacity. The remainder of the money will pay off the mortgage and rebuild the permanent maintenance fund.

“We’re dealing with a building that is very old, and with an old building, like an old house, there are so many things that must be repaired. And nothing is cheap,” Newborg said.

The Community House receives no municipal, state or federal funding.

The building is 25,000 square feet, with three floors, 29 rooms, five bathrooms, a pool with locker rooms, and an elevator on 2 acres of ground.

The funds also would pay for air conditioning, exterior lighting, landscaping and other costs, according to the company website.

In addition, \$675,000 would satisfy the mortgage. By paying that off, there will be a surplus of \$50,000 a year from interest payments, which can go back into the permanent maintenance fund, the nonprofit said.

As for the nonprofits that rent space, Interfaith Hospitality Network, among others, is grateful for the location and low rent.

"We're thrilled to be here, and we like the location," network director Pat Lasusky said.