

Fund-raising kicked off to build community family life center

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Donors will match what The Crossing church raises in 2012

The clock is ticking for members of The Crossing to raise as much money as they can before the big ball drops in Times Square on Jan. 1.

That's because donors have come forward to match, dollar for dollar, what the congregation has raised so far to build a \$2-\$5-million church and family life center.

Crossing elder Eric Most, who is doing the lion's share of raising funds now, said he's meeting individually with business owners, farmers, ranchers and others and challenging them to invest back into Gothenburg.

If the community wants the next generation to return to Gothenburg, he said it's things like a family and life center that will help draw them back.

"As beautiful as this town is, this is a major piece of the puzzle to draw young families to town," Most said. "There's nothing like this."

Most said the project is community-based and not just for The Crossing fellowship.

"We'd like it to be a matching challenge for the whole community to rally around and engage in the process," Most said. "We also want people to use the facility for their own events."

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WHAT'S PLANNED

The blueprint for The Crossing's two-story family life center includes the following:

- Lobby, information center and coffee bar
- Reception hall, administration and other offices
- Conference room
- Multi-purpose gymnasium with a golf simulator, locker room, climbing wall, weights, walking track and other exercise equipment
- Stage
- Work and laundry room
- Rest room
- Tree house
- Infant/toddler day care room
- Children's welcome center
- Prayer room
- Sculpture
- Elevator
- Kitchen and pantry
- Future auditorium
- Playground
- Family game room
- Activity room
- Archery range
- Future indoor pool

Over the past few weeks, the community has been working hard to raise funds for the new family life center. The center will be located on the corner of Hill Street and Chestnut Street, NE.