

LA PORTE COUNTY

Herald-Dispatch

Keys to Hope set to reopen

By SAMANTHA SMITH - Staff Writer Nov 11, 2017 Updated Nov 12, 2017



Art providedA before and after comparison of Keys to Hope, which is set to reopen Nov. 16.

MICHIGAN CITY — After a devastating fire in August that caused a significant amount of damage, Keys to Hope Community Resource Center has announced that it will officially re-open to the public on Nov. 16.

At the time of the fire, the Michigan City Fire Department had no clear answer as to what caused the fire, however, according to Jim Musial, Executive Director of Citizens Concerned for the Homeless (CCH), after further investigation a cause was later determined by an insurance company.

“A cigarette was extinguished in a planter next to the building which had peat moss in it, which is flammable, it combusted and caught the building on fire” Musial said.

Musial added that since the fire, CCH has been working with ServPro Restoration Services to help repair the front of the building, an office located on the far west end of the building as well as remedy smoke damage to the inside of the building that was caused by the fire.

“The work being done by ServPro for the smoke damage and the build-out has been first rate,” he said. “As the general contractor for the rebuild, ServPro has performed quickly and professionally to allow us to reopen as quickly as possible.”

While ServPro has been performing their services, Musial said that the City of Michigan City has been helping their clients in anyway possible.

Musial added that many churches and organizations affiliated with CCH have also helped out during the rebuilding process

“The Michigan City Community responded to make sure our homeless and disenfranchised population continued to receive critical services during the shutdown of the building,” Musial said. “During this time, Saint Paul Lutheran Church opened the Saint Paul room for the Keys to Hope participants, so they had a daily venue to continue their work.”

Additionally, Musial said First Presbyterian Church opened everyday for two hours so people who are a part of the Keys To Hope Program could shower and do their laundry. Programs that were offered at the original site were also held at Saint Paul Church with the help of Healthy Communities and the Path Team from the Swanson Center.

Keys to Hope Director Mike Kilbourne added that with the help of these services participants of the Keys to hope Program were also able to secure jobs and housing while the center was shut down.

According to Musial, he is grateful for all the assistance Keys to Hope have received from the community and other CCH employees over the past three months.

“We can’t thank these community partners enough, and the hard work under difficult conditions performed by Director Kilbourne,” Musial said.

If you need assistance or would like to discuss how you can help, you can reach out to Mike Kilbourne at 219-809-9903, Candice Silvas at 219-879-2552 or Jim Musial at 219-879-2552.