



MEDIA COVERAGE

LOCAL

Tracy rehab centre to open in the spring

LAVERNE STEWART

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Photo: Laverne Stewart/The Daily Gleaner

A U.S. non-profit agency is helping to open and operate a women's rehabilitation centre in Tracy.

Bridges of Canada is partnering with Bridges of America to do the renovations and run the drug and alcohol rehab centre.

Lori Costantino-Brown, president and CEO of Bridges of Canada and Bridges of America, said the U.S. non-profit organization has worked with people with substance abuse issues for years.

Bridges of Canada approached its U.S. counterpart 18 months ago to help with its plan to open the women's treatment centre.

Costantino-Brown said when she arrived in New Brunswick she saw the need for the service and she knew that her organization could help Bridges of Canada Inc.

"Bridges of America's goal is to educate, support and train Bridges of Canada ... There'll be a

point where the Bridges of Canada team and board will be able to act as its own charity without our direct assistance.”

She said she expects it will take a couple of years before its services aren’t needed.

Bridges of America, she said, is helping Bridges of Canada access funding from government agencies, corporate sponsors, churches and private donors.

She said when the centre is operational it will expand to include a women and children’s unit within the next 18 months.

“Women who have small children or are pregnant will be able to get treatment at the same facility.”

Costantino-Brown said there’s a need for the services, which don’t exist in the province. She said the two organizations have decided to take the lead on meeting the need and it’s hoped others will help fund the work.

“The funding will come, but somebody’s got to take the helm ... We’re going to step up to the plate to meet that need. In order to keep the centre afloat we’re going to need the community to support it.”

Tracy Mayor Dale Mowry and some people in the village, located 25 minutes outside Fredericton, had expressed concern about opening a rehabilitation centre on the Canaan in the Woodlands Inc. property, formerly owned by the Evangelical Sisters of Mary.

Costantino-Brown said she met many people in the community at a recent open house who support the rehab centre. In her experience, she said, people’s fears of a decrease in their property values or about increased crime are unfounded.

“When people see that a place is changing lives and meeting needs, they’ll get behind it ... We’re going to do everything in our power to ease their fears and win their support.”