



April 19, 2011

<http://tellusdetroit.com/community/nso-homeless-center-041911.html>



The Yellow Pages/Michigan Bell Building and Western Electric Warehouse located in Detroit near the border with Highland Park was constructed by the architectural firm Smith, Hinchman and Grylls over 80 years ago. This spring the building will undergo extensive alteration for the Neighborhood Service Organization.

Neighborhood Service Organization starts \$50M renovation on the historic Michigan Bell building in Detroit



DETROIT (Tell Us Det) - The 255,000 square foot historic Yellow Pages/Michigan Bell Telephone building located at 882 Oakman Boulevard in Detroit will be renovated to include 155 one-bedroom apartments for formerly homeless adults, support services and NSO's corporate offices.

The \$50 million project will also feature addiction treatment, mental health counseling, case management, life skills training and includes a library, computer, art and music rooms, gym and fitness center, chapel, laundry facilities, walk-out roof gardens and a small sundry shop. A federally- qualified health-care clinic will be located on site and provide services to residents and the community.

“The NSO Bell Building will provide us with an opportunity to truly impact homelessness in our community and positively change the lives of the 155 individuals who will occupy these apartments,” said Sheilah P. Clay, President and CEO of the Neighborhood Service Organization. “In addition, we are proud to be able to restore and bring new life to a historic Detroit landmark and truly look forward to becoming part of the Oakman Boulevard community.”

“The project serves as a model for private capital investment in challenged urban environments and catalyzes revitalization of the immediate area,” added Joe Heaphy, Vice President of Real Estate Development and Management.



The Yellow Pages/Michigan Bell Building and Western Electric Warehouse located in Detroit near the border with Highland Park was constructed by the architectural firm Smith, Hinchman and Grylls over 80 years ago. This spring the building will undergo extensive alteration for the Neighborhood Service Organization.

Detroit homeless service providers, in partnership with the Neighborhood Service Organization, took to the streets last year to identify, interview and find the most at-risk homeless people. This effort is designed, in part, to give homeless people housing and help them get back on their feet.

Last year nonprofit workers were able to interview 211 homeless people in three nights to find out what caused them to lose their homes and learn about the risks they face living on the streets.



Detroit homeless in 2010 struggle with mental illness and substance abuse; 13 percent were veterans and 15 percent had grown up in the foster care system.

Through the interviews, they learned that almost half the Detroit homeless in 2010 struggle with mental illness and substance abuse; 13 percent were veterans and 15 percent had grown up in the foster care system. Out of the 211 people interviewed, there have been 358 hospitalizations in the last year, 456 emergency room visits in three months, 103 people do not have insurance, 74 people had been in prison and 149 had been in jail.

NSO is using an innovative Housing First Model to end deep-rooted homelessness by providing homeless adults with housing and supporting them with the services they need to live stable productive lives. The NSO Bell Building renovation also provides a model for private and public capital investment and will be a catalyst for the revitalization of the immediate neighborhood.