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Women's Center & Shelter nears \$12 million fundraising goal

By Katherine Rohloff

The Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh has raised \$11 million — just \$1 million shy of reaching its capital campaign goal to renovate its facility to accommodate a growing number of domestic abuse victims.

Tuesday's announcement comes more than two years after launching the capital campaign that aimed to reconfigure the interior of the 40,000-square-foot center in the East End. Women and children were able to move into the completed housing area three weeks ago, although public areas are still under construction.

"We are finally going into the public phase of the community for the last million that we need," Shirl Regan, shelter president and CEO, said on Monday. "I have full faith in the community that they will help us achieve our goal."

Foundation and corporate donors and the state have contributed most of the \$11 million raised so far to its Shelter from the Storm campaign.

For more than 40 years, the Women's Center and Shelter has provided sanctuary for women and children who faced domestic violence and abuse. The center in 2016 operated at 112 percent capacity, serving more than 6,000 women and children. It had to refer 450 others to alternate locations.

Since 2015, the shelter has



Melanie Buzgan Dower, project architect for Rothschild Doyno Collaborative.

photo by Women's Center and Shelter

worked to reconfigure its facility and make upgrades. Rothschild Doyno Collaborative, an architecture and urban design firm, has designed new spaces to create a home-like setting with different-sized bedrooms and private shower and bathroom areas.

"We need to make sure that facilities like this can help women

and children be in a better place when they leave [the shelter]," said Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald at Tuesday's announcement.

"It is really important that we reach the community to make a difference. Its about building dignity for those who are vulnerable," Ms. Regan said.