

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$100,000 Grant from The Schenectady Foundation Provides Momentum for a \$7.4 Million Building Project to Establish a Permanent Home Announced for Crossroads Center for Children

Schenectady, NY Children from 30 school districts in the region will have a significantly improved educational experience as Crossroads Center for Children advances its plan to purchase and renovate a Schenectady County building. The ambitious move for the school serving 120 regional children, twelve months a year, addresses the critical need to support those with autism and special needs.

The school has steadily grown in enrollment over its 25 years of operation. For more than a decade the school has functioned from a leased office building. Over time the multi-floored space has been retrofitted but it lacks the structure to meet the evolving demands for the most effective learning environment.

Crossroads has purchased a former school building and will begin renovations immediately with a planned move in late 2024. The property, located at 395 Becker Drive in Princetown was built by Schenectady ARC in 1998. The 22,000 square-foot, single-floored building was designed as a school for individuals with disabilities but requires reconstruction to provide dedicated spaces for therapy and clinic rooms, a gymnasium and cafeteria, as well as an evaluation area. Long-term plans include an additional 2,800 square foot wing which will allow the connection of three existing wings and create a large, enclosed courtyard.

Executive Director Kelly Young shared, “The heart of this project lies in creating a significantly improved educational space designed for the unique needs of children with autism. Our dedicated staff of 90, have worked continuously to bridge the gap between current educational offerings and the aspirations of our students who are in grades Pre-K through sixth grade. This new space will directly impact how these children learn.”

Crossroads' comprehensive plan to move from being a tenant to an owner requires a total of \$7.4 million. The funding formula combines the school's ability to secure financing along with a capital fundraising campaign to reduce the amount financed. The fundraising goal is \$2 million. A committee is in place and is forging relationships, sharing the Crossroads story, and inviting community leaders to consider supporting the extraordinary school. Young continued, “There is no one else like Crossroads- across 30 school districts- that has professionals dedicating every hour, each day, to meet the needs of our youth with the outcomes we experience.”

In September 2023, the Planning Board of the Town of Princetown approved the special permit for the project to move forward on this site. This marks a major milestone for advancement which has the overwhelming support of family members and many community leaders.

Crossroads has received initial financial support from donors including the Christopher Dailey Foundation, CDPHP, Price Chopper's Golub Foundation, and most recently a \$100,000 grant from The Schenectady Foundation.

Robert Carreau, Executive Director of The Schenectady Foundation, said, “The Foundation is proud to support Crossroads as they provide such outstanding services to our community. Taking this step to purchase and renovate a building to suit the children and families in their care is an important one, and one we felt compelled to support.”

Crossroads Center for Children invites community members, organizations, and individuals who share its vision to join in creating a brighter future for children with autism and other special needs.

For more information about the project and how to contribute, please visit <http://crossroadcenter.org/a-permanent-location-for-crossroads/>.

About Crossroads Center for Children Crossroads Center for Children is a nonprofit, 501c3 organization serving children and families from all over the Greater Capital Region. Founded in 1998 to serve children with autism for whom there were no appropriate placements for, Crossroads has grown in size and scope and now includes an ABA (applied behavior analysis) clinic and a center-based school that help over 120 children each year. With a strong commitment to data-driven practices, Crossroads has been providing high-quality education and support to children with autism and special needs, as well as preschool children with general education needs.

The organization's mission is to prepare individuals with and without developmental disabilities for life success within their family and community.

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