

TREATMENT CENTER FOR YOUTHS EXPANDS

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The big pink building on Lake Avenue behind city hall has housed a pharmacy, Italian club, post office and shooting range, but the supporters and staff of Growing Together Inc. gathered Saturday to christen it as a place to restore families.

The non-profit organization, which takes no federal or state money, has worked with 315 families since it opened in 1987, treating adolescents for drug and alcohol abuse through a program that involves loving parental confrontation.

Dominick and Mary Iacovone of Boca Raton donated the \$200,000 building in memory of their daughter, Marian Seifert.

About the time Growing Together decided it would need to leave 1013 Lucerne Avenue and find a new home, Dominick Iacovone stopped in to collect two \$15 monthly checks for using his parking lot near their back door.

He told then-executive director Barbara Griffith that his biggest tenant in the 1000 Lake Ave. building, Tru-Valu Drugs, was moving out and that he was thinking of donating the building to charity.

"I looked him square in the eye and said, 'Why not us?' " Griffith recalled Sunday.

With a donated new roof, sprinklers and air conditioning, the 20,000-square-foot building's rehabilitation resembles what happens to families, board member and building chairman Alan Mentser said. They go through "the same transformation as this building," he said.

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