

MATCHING FUND SET UP TO HELP DRUG PROGRAM

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Saying it has confidence in Possibilities Unlimited despite its current problems, a group of Lexington residents and businesses has developed a \$25,000 matching fund for the Lexington drug treatment program whose director and six employees are charged with unlawful imprisonment.

For every dollar Possibilities Unlimited raises until Aug. 31, the group will match it up to \$25,000.

George Ross, director of Possibilities Unlimited, said yesterday that he was confident the \$25,000 challenge would be met many times over.

Possibilities Unlimited is a drug rehabilitation program for young people between 12 and 25 suffering from chemical use and abuse.

"We are very excited and appreciative of the vote of confidence from these community leaders in our effort to help young people," Ross said. Since opening 22 months ago, Possibilities Unlimited has raised some \$120,000, he said.

The \$25,000 is being put up by Helen Alexander, Ashburn Petroleum, Citizens Union Bank, Dr. Sid Bayne, Catesby Clay, Lee Eaton, First Security Bank, Brereton C. Jones, Will Rouse, Harry Ranier and Joe Taylor.

Eaton, who came up with the idea, said the group decided to extend the challenge now to help stimulate some of Possibilities Unlimited's other financial contributors who might not come forward because of the pending litigation.

"We wanted to help at a time when help was needed," said Eaton, a breeder and horse agent. "We feared people might take the attitude of, 'Let's wait and see before continuing with our support.' "

Eaton said the money was for ongoing programs, not for Ross' defense expenses.

Ross, reached yesterday at Northern Kentucky University where he was participating in a workshop, said the challenge would help raise the awareness and value of the program in the community.

Ross and six staff workers were due to stand trial next month in Fayette District Court. The unlawful imprisonment charges stem from complaints filed by parents who contend that their children were held in the program against their will.

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