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\$2.50

## HOPE RECOVERY COMMUNITY

## Condo purchased to expand women's recovery housing

Sara Crawford The Gazette

MEDINA - As recovery services focus on providing recovery housing for more people, Hope Recovery Community recently purchased a condo to be used for women's recovery housing.

for women in recovery at ery housing. Medina's Discovery Recovery House, which is run by OhioGuidestone.

Hope Recovery Community Executive Director Stefanie Robinson said the Discovery Recovery House is a recovery housing to promote

Currently in Medina Level 3 recovery house, which long-term recovery." County, there are 12 beds is the highest level of recov-

When the women are ready to leave Discovery, it's very hard for them to find a place to go," Robinson said. "So, we're trying to create more options in lower-level

In 2024, the OneOhio Recovery Foundation began accepting grant applications to help combat substance misuse by supporting prevention, treatment and recovery efforts.

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## HOUSING

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Hope Recovery Community applied for grant funding and was awarded two grants, receiving \$120,0000 toward the expansion of community diversity program services and \$151,000 toward a Level 1 housing expansion.

With the \$151,000 awarded, Robinson said Hope Recovery Community purchased a condo to renovate into women's Level 1 recovery housing. Robinson said Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority Executive Director Skip Sipos helped in securing the condo, noting that he held the condo for Hope Recovery Community as it waited for the funding confirmation.

"Currently, our biggest struggle in Medina is that we can't buy property fast enough here as a nonprofit," Robinson said. "Properties get bought so quickly that it's very hard for a nonprofit like us to be able to move fast enough to be able to acquire property."

Robinson said that Level 1 is the least intensive level of recovery housing but still has structure, support and accountability built in.

With the purchase of the condo,

Robinson is unsure of how many beds will be available, but estimated it would be just a few to start. Her goal is to collaborate with the Discovery Recovery House to provide any women who meet the eligibility to leave the Level 3 house with a bed in the Level 1 house.

"It's more realistic to go long term in a Level 1 house and it just gives people more time," Robinson said. "It gives them more time to build those life skills, to build out that recovery, to build that foundation, to let their mind, body and soul continue to recover through the recovery process."

With renovations underway at the condo, Robinson said Hope Recovery Community is excited to begin serving women through recovery housing as the goal is to help men, women and families in the future.

Currently in Medina County, there are about 45 to 50 beds for men in recovery at all three levels of recovery. Robinson noted that some men have lived in Level 1 housing for more than two years.

Robinson plans to keep seeking funds to expand Level 1 housing for both men and women to ensure people can stay within Medina County, rather than going to recovery housing in other counties.

"We've done such a good job in Medina of growing recovery support services like the recovery centers and the farm, but we just want the housing to support people," Robinson said. "People want to come here and recover, which is just incredible, but they have to have a safe place to live, an affordable place to live, a sustainable place to live. So, that's really our focus."

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