

HIGHLANDS

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manner."

The center, at 348 South Fifth St., will house the following agencies: Macon Program for Progress, Macon County Health Department, Macon County Department on Aging, Literacy Council of Highlands, Southeastern Community College, R.E.A.C.H. of Macon County, Educational Opportunity Center, Angel Community Hospital Home Health, Macon County Sheriff's Department, a senior citizens group from the First Presbyterian Church, and Highland-Cashiers Hospital.

The tenant list may expand.

Among the services to be offered at the center are a health clinic, adult-education classes, tutoring and career counseling.

"It will eventually evolve into an all-purpose community center with an emphasis on coordination among agencies," deVilleville says. "People in one agency can refer clients to other services they think could be helpful just down the hall."

In addition to the 11 initial agencies, a central staff and trained volunteers will refer clients to services both in the building and elsewhere.

"We want to eliminate the often confusing maze of processes and pieces of paper that people have to wade through to get services," deVilleville



The new Peggy Crosby Community Service Center opened in February in Highlands to provide nonprofit agencies with a one-stop-shopping headquarters.

says. Highlands residents Philip and Peggy Crosby issued a \$175,000 challenge grant toward the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation's purchase of the new center's building. The Highlands Hospital vacated the building in March 1993.

The Duke Endowment in Charlotte and the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust in Winston-Salem each provided \$125,000 for the renovation. An additional \$100,000 from

the Duke Endowment supports the center's first- and second-year operating costs.

deVilleville, who also is executive director of the Literacy Council of Highlands, credits Erv Baumgardner, who serves on the board of the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Foundation, for the vision that led to the Crosby Center.

For information, call deVilleville at (704) 526-9938.



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Technology notebook

BY SEAN BAILEY

Working group may form

A nonprofit working group focusing on telecommunications needs of nonprofits may soon be established, says Terry Grunwald, director of NCExChange.

Grunwald has been talking with the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits and other groups about establishing the working group under the auspices of the North Carolina Information Highway, the state's initiative to use high-speed information technology to improve education and economic development. Similar working groups have already been established in areas such as K-12 education and local government.

Grunwald says the group would discuss such issues as how nonprofits might promote and market themselves using telecommunications, how to provide training and technical support for staffs, how to build strong content statewide for and about nonprofits, how to manage collaboration between nonprofits and other sectors, and how to develop information sharing.

No decision has been made about how or when the group will form. For information, contact Grunwald at (919) 856-2176, or Trisha Lester, assistant director of the Center for Nonprofits, at (919) 571-0811.

Nonprofit Internet training

Madison County education and nonprofit groups are tapping into the Internet through the work of Sam McKee, a grants administrator for Mars Hill College.

More than 50 nonprofits have been put on-line through McKee's assistance. While some groups have computers, she says, they often lack

experience using a modem or the Internet. She starts by training organizations to use e-mail and then introduces them to other aspects of the Internet such as newsgroups or information searches through gopher or FTP.

"The need is absolutely tremendous because this is such a rural area," she says. "Having this capability breaks down the barriers of communication."

McKee, who recently taught an Internet access course for Duke University's Certificate Program in Nonprofit Management, will give a similar program March 30 at the Western North Carolina Literacy Conference at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. The program is called "Scaling Mountains and Building Bridges: Resources for Rural Nonprofits."

McKee can be reached by e-mail at smckee@mhc.edu or by phone: (704) 689-1449. For information about the conference, call Amy Cipolla at (704) 251-6622.

Recycling used computers

The North Carolina Sierra Club is loaning refurbished computers to small groups who want to use its new bulletin board system to keep up with environmental news. Steve Lund, a Sierra Club volunteer coordinating the computer program, says that a 24-hour-a-day bulletin board system is now available for North Carolina environmental groups whose members want to post information or receive information about the environment. The BBS can be reached at: (919) 233-9047.

Groups are being encouraged to post their newsletters, action alerts and information about outings, says Lund. Organizations from outside the

Triangle can get special off-line software that will enable them to download or upload information onto the bulletin board system quickly and without incurring expensive phone charges.

Lund says the club is seeking donations of computers, old or more recent models, which can be fixed up and loaned to other groups. Information about the program can be found through the N.C. Sierra Club's home page: <http://rtpnet.intercenter.net/~tsierra/nc-home.html> or by contacting Lund at (919) 481-1300.

Tavernise web site expands

Pete Tavernise at Duke University continues to expand his involvement with nonprofit organizations and the Internet. Tavernise, coordinator for development at Duke's school of engineering, started with a Philanthropy Index, a Web site that indexed the growing nonprofit resources and homepages available over the Internet. Every couple of days Tavernise culls the Internet and its World Wide Web for new information about nonprofits and lists them at his page. He says he gets about five new listings every day.

"Things are really going up fast," he says.

His other activities include keeping up a "Meta-index of Philanthropy Sites," an index of other indexes that are tracking nonprofit and foundation activity on the Internet, and judging "The Best of the Nonprofit Web Sites - 1996" for Impact On-line, a California-based nonprofit that assists nonprofits with using new technology. His home page can be found at: <http://www.duke.edu/~ptavern/Pete.Philanthropic.html>.

Tavernise also is advising an Atlanta organization that is specializing in developing Web sites for nonprofits and foundations. He can be reached by e-mail at: ptavern@acpub.duke.edu.

Our special fundraising issue will be published in June. Call (919) 899-3741 for information.

operations, development director and assistant development director.

"The administrative side is taking the hit, and the child advocacy side is being preserved," says Sher, who plans to send a letter to institute supporters to bring them up to date on plans for the organization.

Todd Cohen

INSTITUTE

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advocacy role for children. Additional funds are being sought from foundations and other donors, with the money to be used for advocacy.

The three positions being eliminated are executive vice president for