

PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE FACTS and FAQs

What's the background of the project?

At the 2019 Annual Meeting, the Westwood Council presented a Road Map that laid out the intention to hold two consecutive congregation-wide 3-year appeals. The first, entitled "All Are Welcome" was launched in 2019 and addressed Westwood's facility needs. The second appeal, to be launched in 2022, is to be designated for needs in our greater community.

What are the goals of the Prayer of Good Courage Appeal?

- To further Westwood's Vision Statement "to be an advocate for a healthy community".
 - "Meeting basic needs and actively seeking ways to end poverty"
 - "Strengthening all forms of families"
 - "Working and advocating for justice striving to eliminate inequalities that remain in our society."
- To be a faithful expression of the Prayer of Good Courage:
 - "Called to ventures of which we cannot see the ending"
 - "By paths as yet untrodden"

What was the process for establishing the project?

A team from Westwood met with the SLP Mayor, City Council members, School Superintendent, and Executive Director of STEP, in addition to consulting the SLP Vision 3.0 document presented in 2017. From those, two things were determined:

- The #1 issue identified was the need for affordable housing.
- The need for affordable childcare was affirmed.

What is the Prayer of Good Courage project?

Common Bond Communities, a major Twin Cities affordable housing non-profit, will be building 120 units of affordable housing on the old Prince of Peace Lutheran Church site in St. Louis Park, across from Cub Foods on highway 7. Westwood has been invited to start a childcare for 62 children in the same building. The proposal is that half of these spots will be affordable (meaning those spots will pay on average 50% of full price).

What is the annual cost for childcare at the Westwood Early Childcare Center?

- Infants= \$20,000
- Toddlers= \$18,500
- Pre-School= \$17,500

What is the cost of the Westwood Prayer of Good Courage Project?

The financial projections are based on a 12-year forecast (2 years of preparation and then a 10-year lease starting in 2022). \$3.1 million is the projected gap over 12 years.

The proposal to cover this gap is as follows.

- \$1 million from a Westwood Prayer of Good Courage appeal.
- \$400,000 from Westwood Outreach budget (\$35,000 a year for 12 years)
- \$1.5 million from external foundations/individuals.
- \$250,000 from community faith partners

What is the process now that the council voted to move forward?

- Westwood commits to a 3-year Prayer of Good Courage appeal that would begin in 2022. The goal of the appeal would be \$1 million over three years (2022-2025).
- A new Westwood initiated non-profit named RISE EARLY LEARNING would proceed to sign a 10-year lease with Common Bond Communities for the 62-spot affordable childcare that will be located in the new building that will begin in 2022.
- RISE EARLY will proceed to hire staff and establish a high-quality affordable childcare.
- The team that's been working to raise funds from outside organizations since February of 2020 will continue its work.

What happens after the 10-year lease is up?

There are 3 possible answers that will be determined in the last years of the lease.

- Rise Early Learning establishes a fund base and negotiates a new lease with minimal Westwood financial contributions.
- Westwood commits to another sizable financial commitment to support another 10-year lease for Rise Early Learning.
- Rise Early Learning Center chooses to close, and Westwood rejoices that over 300 year-long affordable spots had been offered to those who would not have had the chance to experience the benefits of a High-Quality Childcare, in addition to over 300 full-paying spots.