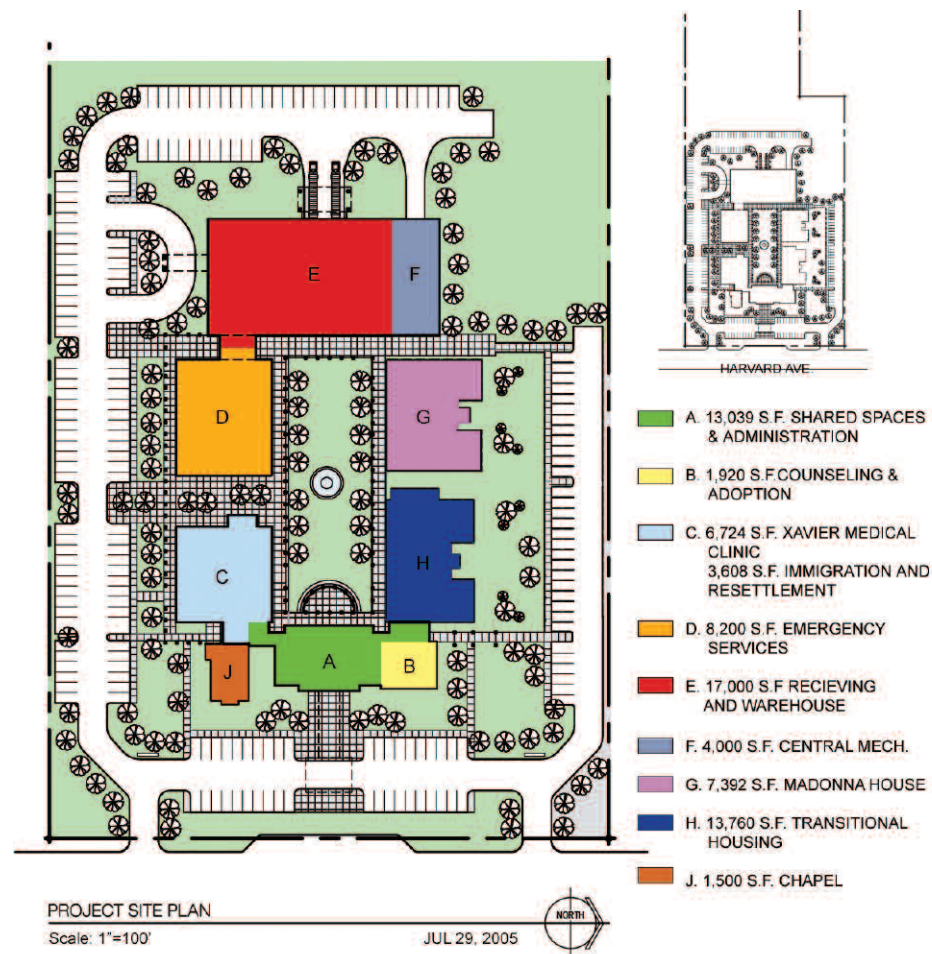


“Within the walls of these new buildings, we shall become the hands and heart of Christ in serving the poor.”



On the frigid morning of March 22, people wearing coats and clutching blankets began lining up before dawn in hopes of being seen at the one-day-a-week Xavier Medical Clinic. The clinic opens at 9 a.m.



A floor plan shows the layout for the first floor of the new campus. Administrative offices will be on the second floor. (Olson-Coffey Architects)



Once they are inside the clinic, patients are jammed in a small waiting room where they fill out paperwork and describe what symptoms they or their relatives are experiencing. One woman was there with her mother-in-law, whose knees had become swollen; first-time visitor Rachel Williams heard about Xavier Clinic from a friend and came for relief of her back pain and her son's allergies. A teen-age boy named Mosiah had been in line with his mother since 5 a.m. because she doesn't speak English and had been treated at the clinic for the past three weeks.



Shoes and other clothing items are offered at the Holy Child Shop next door to Madonna House.



A picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus hangs on a cracked wall in the main Catholic Charities offices.

To serve the poor for the next 50 years



Bishop Slattery sits with dignitaries in the front row, including former Mayor Robert LaFortune, who is serving as honorary chairman of the campaign, his nephew, current Mayor Bob LaFortune, Richard and Sally Minshall, co-chairs, U.S. Rep. John Sullivan and Connie Sullivan, Bishop Kelley Christian service director and wife of Catholic Charities' Tim Sullivan.

In the days leading up to the March 25 dedication of the land that will be home to the future campus of Catholic Charities, a tour of the existing facilities documented the need for a larger, consolidated services center, as the accompanying photos show.

On the Feast of the Annunciation, Deacon Tim Sullivan told the 60-plus people who attended the dedication that Catholic Charities is “a beacon to the needy of Tulsa,” but said current buildings are inadequate to the need, inefficient and inconvenient for the clients.

“Right now, if someone were to ask, ‘Where is Catholic Charities,’ there would be several answers,” he said.

The most prominent feature of the new campus will be its chapel with a bell tower that will signal to all who see it the priority that guides Catholic Charities. “Within the walls of these new buildings, we shall become the hands and heart of Christ in serving the poor,” Bishop Slattery said. “God bless all of you for your presence here today and for your support.”



Heather Maxwell's son Joshua was to mark his sixth-month birthday March 23. The mother and child live at Madonna House and plan to move into an apartment of their own this spring.

The side of Madonna House is crumbling.



A victim of Hurricane Katrina waits in an emergency services office where the wallpaper is peeling off the wall.

