

From: United Way of the Midlands  
Sent: 8/3/2015 9:35:56 AM  
To: Haley, Nikki  
Cc:  
Subject: We have an exciting announcement to make!

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United Way  
of the Midlands

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We're moving! United Way of the Midlands announces plans  
to open new headquarters in spring 2016

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United Way of the Midlands CEO Mac Bennett with MRC students at Hyatt Park Elementary.

For the first time in more than 40 years, United Way of the Midlands will have a new home. In spring 2016, we will be moving to our new campus at the corner of Gregg and Blanding streets in downtown Columbia.

This project began several years ago when our Board of Directors assessed the organization's current and future facilities. The assessment highlighted the need for improvements to our meeting space, energy efficiency and mechanical, electrical, plumbing and other systems. The needs and costs associated were significant.

As a comparison, we were encouraged to look at other properties in the community to consider a renovation approach that might better respond to our needs. After a thorough review and evaluation, we identified a building which met our needs and after renovation, actually provided a more appealing alternative to renovating our current building.

Shortly after agreeing to sell our current building to the City of Columbia back in

April, we purchased property at 1818 Blanding Street with the intent to perform an adaptive reuse on the existing buildings on that site, which was most recently the Ferguson Kitchen and Bath warehouse.

The new headquarters will be paid for with the proceeds of the sale of our current building along with the generous support of local companies, foundations and individuals. The overall budget of the project is \$4.2 million and funding for this facility will not divert any money from our Community Impact work, grants or program spending.

Our new facility will allow us to improve the work environment for our employees, remain in the downtown community and create an appealing meeting facility for our business and nonprofit partners. With more than 6,000 square feet of new meeting space, we will be able to welcome substantially more guests than the 6,000 we now host annually for meetings and events. The workspace will feature improved technology and a more contemporary office environment. We will also have ample room for storage and for future growth.

Our new home will be much more than a new building. It will be a community asset - a long-term investment in our ability to continue to partner with the Midlands community to create opportunities for a better life for everyone.

We are excited about sharing our new home with you and look forward to providing more information about the project in the coming months.

Sincerely,  
J. Mac Bennett  
President & CEO  
United Way of the Midlands

PS - Stay tuned to [our website for more information <http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001F4mkNIVAIMxd-AOuww1U983otFdvMWXLazoZ1\\_bo4hWB09HbpGCEUjskw9knowAuGvLxI3UBSU4Qi5j8QiQjSqk4ELokTvf6Et3zvFEFD19Y6B7ApJ6vFGPBbdllrPXQEuVzkJFIZir4Caj7EICVEWjiXEml65WzgESbe0y1FcPOdJ6NbRuUbFzxe77aRmqxcSsZDTADgC4ZHLVE6pRnfuCcOeit9GjZpU5cXnT7nkJ\\_SJyngY05kLmHFQVIKgsN&c=wwlXjtl3IPV0KtwYf0rv944GopQwwgbVYW3oaN1hyOM7Kjd7O7R\\_Bg==&ch=Z9BeGN2FKXCKaeOMPPKhfAf6\\_hV3BtrtOjSFimdZFc2WU9hG4b\\_5FA==>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001F4mkNIVAIMxd-AOuww1U983otFdvMWXLazoZ1_bo4hWB09HbpGCEUjskw9knowAuGvLxI3UBSU4Qi5j8QiQjSqk4ELokTvf6Et3zvFEFD19Y6B7ApJ6vFGPBbdllrPXQEuVzkJFIZir4Caj7EICVEWjiXEml65WzgESbe0y1FcPOdJ6NbRuUbFzxe77aRmqxcSsZDTADgC4ZHLVE6pRnfuCcOeit9GjZpU5cXnT7nkJ_SJyngY05kLmHFQVIKgsN&c=wwlXjtl3IPV0KtwYf0rv944GopQwwgbVYW3oaN1hyOM7Kjd7O7R_Bg==&ch=Z9BeGN2FKXCKaeOMPPKhfAf6_hV3BtrtOjSFimdZFc2WU9hG4b_5FA==>) as it becomes available.

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