



Photos by Kyle Phillips | The Transcript

CCFI CEO Melissa Klink, left, and Board President Sarah Jensen-Schettler, right, cut the ribbon during a ceremony to show off the new remodel Thursday at CCFI.

# CCFI to offer more services following upstairs renovation

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The Center for Children and Families, which houses the Boys and Girls Club of Norman, welcomed the public to the open house for its newly refurbished upstairs.

Previously, the second floor served as unfinished storage, but growing need necessitated the half a million dollar investment.

Melissa Klink, CCFI CEO, said the organization has occupied the space at 210 S. Cockrel Ave. since 2014.

The city of Norman allo-

cated \$215,000 in ARPA funds for the project. The difference consisted of private donors. Klink said she is still tabulating the final costs, but it will run between \$450,000 to half a million dollars.

“In 2014, we simply didn’t need the space yet, so we left it to be finished,” Klink said. “Over the last few years, we’ve had so much growth in the amount of people needing services that we’ve had to expand staffing.”

The organization moved its three staff offices and nine



A new playroom is shown at CCFI in Norman.

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cubicles upstairs, which has freed up space for services downstairs.

“We are able to offer more services on site,” Klink said. “We were able to add additional staff, including one extra therapist in our counseling program, which is desperately needed. The amount of childhood trauma that has been seen in the last few years has increased in intensity, severity, and volume, so our waiting list was getting really high.”

Sarah Jensen-Schettler, CCFI board president, said this move allows the organization to serve more people.

“We continue to see that the need for services is grow-

ing and ever growing, and the opportunity to expand with this additional upstairs space allows us to do more for the community by fulfilling our mission, which is to empower youth and strengthen families,” Jensen-Schettler said.

She said the upstairs turned out beautifully.

“The space used to just be a big open space, it was just storage,” she said. “You can see a lot of the children that we serve throughout the walls represented through artwork.”

She said the Boys and Girls Club serves an essential need in the community, not just as a space where children can hang out after school, but where they can meet their physical, mental, and emotional health needs.

“What’s really powerful

about our Boys and Girls club is you’re seeing and growing participation of those middle school children,” she said. “They have a place here where they can come and get homework help and a meal.”

She said the renovations will also help parents as they can use the center as a one-stop shot for counseling services.

“What takes this organization to the next level is how families can receive those wraparound services here,” she said. “If they need counseling services, if they’ve been exposed to trauma, if their family needs some additional resource or case management, that can all be encompassed within one building. And that’s a challenge for people to have to go multiple places and answer the same ques-

tions multiple times.”

Rep. Jared Deck, D-Norman, attended the open house and said he looks forward to the expansion of CCFI services.

“This will allow CCFI to continue to serve by offering additional services to students and families in our community,” Deck said. “I’ve had the opportunity and the privilege of touring this facility before the addition was made, while the addition was being made and now to see it come to completion. I know that the families and the kids in our community will be greatly served by the staff and the volunteers here at CCFI.”

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