

# Future home enables Frontier to expand its youth programs

By STACY NICK

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After years of talking about moving Frontier High School to a larger location, the dream will soon become a reality.

In early February, Wingshadow, a Fort Collins organization dedicated to at-risk youths, is relocating the school, now housed at First Christian Church, 2700 S. Lemay Ave., to the former Diamond Crest Assisted Living Home, 1225 Redwood St.

The facility was purchased for \$1 million, and renovations, which will

cost another \$500,000, are expected to begin this week as soon as the group has the green light from the city of Fort Collins, said Annette Zacharias-Piper, Wingshadow development director. Funding for the school came from donations and grants.

The 21,000-square-foot site is perfect, Zacharias-Piper said.

"It was affordable, but it also has lots of potential," she said. "The layout makes it a facility where we can do it all — the school, the shelter and the child-care center

— on the same site but independent of each other at same time."

In addition to increasing the student capacity from 65 to 110, Frontier's child-care center will increase from 16 to 40 children and the new crisis center also will open. The center will act as a temporary shelter for teens who need help, something that has sorely been lacking in the community, said Steve Bolton, who co-founded Wingshadow with his wife, Shirley.

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V. Richard Haro/The Coloradoan

**SHARING CHORES:** Frontier High School students, from left, Nicole Lombardo, 17, Kassandra Cano, 17, and Lindsey Carlson, 16, work in the kitchen at the school's future home at 1225 Redwood St. The school hopes to be completely moved in by February.

## Frontier

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"We have (homeless) facilities for families and adults but this will be the first just for teens," he said.

Youths will be able to stay at the shelter, which has beds for 12 boys and six girls, for as long as 90 days, Bolton said.

"Some kids have an argument with parents and just need a place to stay overnight to cool off," he said. "Others have been put out by their parents."

The shelter will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week with an on-duty therapist and a consulting psychiatrist, Bolton said.

The school, which has been bursting at the seams for years, also will add two grades — seventh and eighth — to its current ninth through 12th grade pro-

### Interested?

To find out more about Frontier High School's new facility, the community is invited to attend weekly tours of the school. Each week for an indefinite period of time, Wingshadow will provide a tour of the new facility, located at 1225 Redwood St., at 8 a.m. Thursdays.

Registration for the free tour is not necessary. For more information, call Annette Zacharias-Piper at 419-3252.

gram.

"It just amazes me to see this is happening," Bolton said. "The reason is because of the support we've had here and the people who work with us. It's much greater than anything Shirley or I could have done by ourselves."