

New facility gives teens a place to land

Wingshadow opens building for youths

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Shirley Bolton doesn't count her riches in money, but one young life at a time.

She's been counting them that way for more than a decade.

Bolton, and her husband, Steve, in 1993 founded Wingshadow Inc., a nonprofit organization that helps at-risk youths. Saturday, they added a new resource to those

riches — a new facility from which to reach out to youths.

Wingshadow's new building at 1225 Redwood St, which was unveiled Saturday, is home to Frontier High School and The Wing, a teen homeless shelter that opened in November.

The \$1.6 million building, a remodeled assisted living facility, is the result of 2½ years of planning and fund raising.

"This is a culmination not of the 2½ past years, but of 11 years of work," Steve Bolton said.

Shirley Bolton said a combination of factors led them to seek a new loca-

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For more information on Wingshadow, visit www.fortnet.org/Wingshadow/index.html or call 419-3252.

tion. Frontier High School outgrew its leased space at First Christian Church, which had housed the school for several years, and they were looking to add the shelter for homeless teens.

"It helps us deliver our services more efficiently," she said. "And more space means we can serve more kids."

In addition to Frontier, an alternative high school for at-risk teens, and The Wing, the new building also houses a child-care center for teen mothers.

The Wing is the only shelter for homeless teens north of Denver. The shelter takes teens ages 12 to 17, referred by social service agencies, and provides food, shelter, education and counseling for up to 90 days. As of Friday, the shelter housed 10 teens, although the count can change daily.

Larry Abrahamson sits on the Wingshadow Board of Directors and attended

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FOR TOTS: Sonja Schuh, left, and sister Connie Schuh walk through the sleep room while touring the area for infants ages 4 weeks to 18 months during Wingshadow's Grand Opening Facility Dedication at 1225 Redwood St. on Saturday.

Rich Abrahamson
The Coloradoan

Wingshadow

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Saturday's grand opening.

"This is huge," he said of the facility opening. "This is something we've been looking forward to for years."

Wingshadow offers valuable services to teens in the community, Abrahamson said. "These kids have found a place to land," he said.

Jordan Scott is among those who landed at Wingshadow. Scott graduated from Frontier in 2000, and credits the school and Wingshadow with saving her life.

"Steve and Shirley are like stockbrokers," Scott said of the Boltons. "The stock they deal in is human life."

Scott spoke at Saturday's event, expressing her gratitude to the organization. "They helped facilitate enormous change in my life," she said.

When Scott came to Frontier, she was a methamphetamine addict who watched as her friends went to prison and died because of their lifestyle.

"I was following down a shaky path in their unstable footprints," she said.

Now Scott is a political-science major at Colorado State University and is set to graduate in December, after which she plans on going to law school.

"They saved my life," she said. When asked how it feels to see kids who've been helped by her organization, Shirley Bolton tears up. She said she appreci-

ates the graciousness expressed by former students, but it goes beyond her and her husband.

"It's so much more than Steve and Shirley," Shirley Bolton said. "It's a huge endeavor by a lot of people."

And as for her investment and the return — "It's better than money," she said.