

Nest FAQ

What is Nest?

Nest will be a revitalized and reimagined multi-use campus at the site of the former St. Rita's Catholic School that will provide a safe place to call home for a small number of families on their path to empowerment. It will also include health, wellness and other community-serving amenities for all local families. While our existing Dundalk facility will continue to anchor all crisis services, including emergency shelter, Nest will provide longer-term opportunities for individuals and families post-crisis who are ready to begin their next chapter.

What is “next-step” housing and how is it different from FCC’s “emergency shelter” services?

Emergency shelter is just one part of the necessary housing continuum that survivors need to thrive. While FCC's existing facility space in Dundalk will continue to anchor all crisis response services, Nest will provide the essential and life-changing time, space and support that survivors need post-crisis to regain independence, rebuild their lives and put down roots in a welcoming and safe community. Without programs like this, survivors may have no other option than to return to their abuser's home or face homelessness. At Nest, we're making a difference in the lives of children - and their future children.

How many apartment units will there be?

Nest will have 12 2-4-bedroom apartments with private baths and full kitchens that enable families to continue their journey with safety and dignity.

Will this increase traffic in the neighborhood?

In contrast to the parking and traffic for St. Rita's School (over 600 students daily), the average daily utilization at Nest is estimated at 6 full-time staff and 12 adult residents. A maximum of 18 cars will regularly visit the facility.

Where will people who are living or working at Nest park?

Nest will have a dedicated parking lot with 37 spots. We expect a maximum of those 18 spots to be occupied at any given time.

No street parking will be necessary or used for the facility, and we will work with the community to ensure appropriate mitigation efforts like “no parking” signage, for example, are in place.

How will this project impact property values in the area?

Volumes of research exists on the link between abandoned properties and depressed property values. The longer we allow the former St. Rita's School to remain vacant, the more likely it is that property values will be negatively impacted as a result.

How will the presence of Nest impact safety in the neighborhood?

There is no research on similar facilities across the country that suggests transitional housing for domestic violence survivors has any negative impacts on community safety. At both Nest and at our existing emergency shelter located nearby, community and resident safety is our number one priority. We have robust systems and protocols in place, in addition to long-standing partnership with local law enforcement, to ensure immediate resolution in the very unlikely event there is an uncomfortable situation.

FCC staff will be on site, within 150 feet of the facility 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When will construction on the site begin?

We anticipate construction will begin between March and May of 2022.

How long will the construction last?

To reduce construction timing, FCC was able to raise the funds necessary to narrow two project phases into one, allowing for an estimated 9-month completion time. We will work closely with the community early and often to ensure construction impacts are minimal and all related information is readily available and regularly updated.

What is the Family Crisis Center (FCC) of Baltimore County?

FCC is a private, non-profit agency founded in Dundalk in 1979 with a bold vision for a future in which every home is safe, families are thriving and communities are strong. A regional leader for more than 40 years, we have safely and compassionately assisted more than 40,000 families as they navigate the challenges of their new day-to-day life, while supporting their long-term growth and development.

Our work at FCC has been rooted, since day one, in our role as a community member and partner - doing our part to help Dundalk families thrive. The organization was born over forty years ago by a caring group of people from the Dundalk Church of the Brethren who sought to assist teenagers struggling to stay in school. In working with these teens, volunteers learned that most of the youth came from families experiencing high levels of conflict and family violence, which at the time was rarely a topic of conversation. Their work evolved to provide a thoughtful alternative that met the diverse needs of individuals—and their families members—experiencing violence at home.

Since then, we have worked in the community to help people better identify and respond to domestic violence, assisted individuals and families to grow healthy relationships and worked with community partners to create pathways that help victims access safety and foster ongoing stability. Most importantly, we have brought hope and a new way of life to hundreds of local families.