




## **Non-Profit Development Center to Open in June**

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The Just Be Cause Center for Not-for-Profit Development (JBCC) will open its doors this coming June in the former Ithaca Paint Company building at 1013 W. State Street in Ithaca. The JBCC will fulfill some of the functions lost when the Women’s Community Building closed, with five office spaces, a conference room, and two multi-purpose activity rooms for use by local non-profits. An extensive renovation is under way; the approximately 5,100 square foot building will have new bathrooms, air conditioning, heating, carpeting, kitchen, WIFI and shared office equipment.

“The building is dedicated to Judy Dietz, to honor the spirit of how she lived her life: caring for other people and always working to make sure the community is a better place to be,” said Jerry Dietz of his late wife. JBCC will be owned by the newly formed Just Be Cause Foundation and will be managed by Dietz’s company, C.S.P. Management, LLC.

Four organizations will be in place when the building opens, with one office space yet to be filled. The rental for these offices will be well below market rate, in order to allow non-profits previously unable to afford dedicated office space to do so. Other community organizations will also be able to book time in the conference and activity rooms.

The goal, says Dietz, “is for the Just Be Cause Center to allow organizations to come together and draw energy from each other and operate more effectively because of that synergy.”

The Friendship Donations Network (FDN) will have both an office and storage space in the JBCC, allowing the organization to consolidate its currently scattered storage facilities. This will increase the efficiency with which food is stored and distributed to local food pantries by FDN.

Running to Places (R2P), a youth theater company, will have an office and use of both activity rooms for rehearsal. The sprung floor in the activity rooms and the mirror-lined wall make the spaces perfect for dancing as well as theater arts. Using these spaces, R2P will be able to significantly expand its programming, and is planning summer workshops as well as classes during the year in dance and theater arts.

The Kitchen Theater, which has been in need of expanded rehearsal space, will also use the activity rooms for rehearsals.

Mira’s Movement, an organization supporting children with cancer and their families, will have an office in the JBCC, as will IPEI, the Ithaca Public Education Initiative.

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