

Groundbreaking Held for new BCDS Apartment Complex

Brown County Developmental Services held a groundbreaking ceremony Friday afternoon for a new apartment complex and with the project realizes a dream of owning the majority of their residential service sites.

The complex containing 14-apartments will be built at 511 Delaware Street in Hiawatha. The former Safeway Store building will be remodeled to contain eight apartments, a laundry room, accessible roll-in shower, and concrete walled storm shelter. Attached to the building to the west will be a new structure containing six apartments, a staff office, commons area with kitchen, and a single van garage. There will be courtyard area between the old and new building.

Fourteen people with intellectual disabilities receiving BCDS residential services, who currently live in apartments the agency rents on North 4th Street, will move to the site.

The projected completion date for the complex is January of 2013. The contractor on the project is AHRS Construction of Bern. The architect is Mike Wilson with Architect One of Topeka.

BCDS Director Linda Lock says the location will be excellent for the people living there due to its close proximity to the downtown area. In addition, she said the project will allow them to consolidate staff and transportation in central Hiawatha, creating a savings for the agency.

The project is being built with funds generated through the BCDS Thriftshop.