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Manna Cafe takes its mission to the next level with Refuge Community Center

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Manna Cafe Ministries is finally able to take its mission to the next level, offering a space for clinics, job skills training and workshops in the newly opened Refuge Community Center.

On Thursday afternoon, dozens of people joined Manna Cafe founder Kenny York for a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony in the new 6,000-square-foot space at 503 D St., just off Providence Boulevard.

York said he and his wife, cofounder Victoria York, have been impacting the community for a decade, but the Refuge Center will take things to another level.

"We've been feeding people for 10 years, and sometimes that's just a Band-Aid." York said. Now, with the Refuge Center, they hope to provide enough resources that people won't even need their food services anymore.

"We're excited about the things we can offer in this building we haven't been able to offer in the past," York said.

Kenny and Victoria York even went into debt in order to get the center finished. "I really feel like we were supposed to step out on faith and build this."

During the grand opening, elected officials spoke on behalf of the Yorks and recognized them for their community efforts.

"These guys have the best servants hearts of anybody I've seen," said U.S. Rep. Mark Green.

"Kenny, if we could clone you, the world would be in a much better place."

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