



Flint Journal Editorial: Community Foundation's new home shows downtown's progress

Posted by The Flint Journal Editorial Board June 19, 2008 09:05AM

FLINT, Michigan -- The [Community Foundation of Greater Flint's](#) new headquarters at [500 S. Saginaw St.](#) is not only beautiful, it is another example of how with vision, commitment and some financial investment the city's dilapidated eyesores can be reclaimed.

It is also tangible proof of the charitable organization's commitment to revitalizing downtown Flint, which was one of its stated goals when it underwent strategic planning in 1995.

The foundation joined forces with the Uptown Reinvestment Corp. and Uptown Six, both of which are dedicated to downtown's rebirth, to redevelop the shuttered, graffiti-covered buildings that had been mainstays when they previously housed Dale's Natural Foods and Baker Drugs.

Nineteen months and a couple of million dollars later, the result is nothing short of spectacular and an asset for the entire community.

The multi-use structure includes two third-floor residential lofts, one of which is still available, and 5,500 square feet of commercial space at street level that the foundation hopes will attract a restaurant. The foundation's offices are on the second floor.

Perhaps since the foundation's reach is so broad across our county, its new offices can serve as a showcase for the positive things that are happening downtown.

Those who haven't taken a drive into the city recently might be surprised by what they see along South Saginaw Street. Revitalization is far from a pipe dream. In fact, it continues to gain momentum as locations that many had written off as unusable are brought back to life and given new purpose.

In the same 500 block as the foundation, for instance, Rowe Inc., Wade Trim and WNEM (Channel 5) are anchoring redeveloped multi-use sites that include lofts and commercial space.

We congratulate the foundation on its stunning new home and we commend it for being part of the solution.

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