

New Bouma Counseling Center Meets Critical Needs

By Randy Zylstra, Chief Operating Officer

The demand for early preventive support for at-risk children and families has never been greater. Over the past several years, Wedgwood has expanded our **Community Services** programs to intervene in the lives of youth and families before problems grow to levels requiring more intensive solutions. Because these programs continue to grow, we built the new **Henry and Carolyn Bouma Counseling Center** as the latest phase of new construction and campus consolidation.

The Bouma Counseling Center provides a blend of family-friendly convenience for visitors and efficient versatility for the staff who provide a wide variety of counseling and educational services. The front half

of the building is designed for public access, with comfortable waiting areas, four therapy rooms and a larger room to host groups.

A new **Psychiatric Triage** program will have its own private waiting area, allowing clients and families to meet with Wedgwood's psychiatrist and nurses in a discreet, supportive setting. Also, a new café provides a casual meeting place, complete with wireless internet access for more informal contacts between Wedgwood staff and visitors.

Behind the scenes, new work spaces host improvements aimed at increasing efficiency and flexibility for Wedgwood case managers and clinicians. An open floor plan allows for rapid reconfiguration of work space, since Community Programs are subject to many

changes over the course of their development.

Most community program staff spend the majority of their time out of the office, meeting with young people in their communities. Wireless laptop "drop zones" give staff a convenient place to check in, get updated and quickly be on their way again. A dedicated space for interns offers the promise for future students to work more productively with Wedgwood as they earn their graduate and post-graduate degrees.



◀ Randy Zylstra, LMSW
Chief Operating Officer

