

## Funds for Good Shepherd Square halfway there

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October 14, 2011

Mark Chamberlain says raising the first \$5.5 million was the easy part.

"The final part is always harder," said Chamberlain, campaign chair responsible for raising an extra \$10 million to complete the construction of Good Shepherd Square.

With \$4.5 million to go, he's turned to the public.

"Now it looks more achievable," he added at The Good Shepherd's annual gala Thursday night.

Chamberlain was the man of the hour, telling some 970 supporters at the annual harvest dinner that fundraising for the Good Shepherd Square project was past the halfway point.

Municipal, provincial and federal governments kicked in \$45 million of the project's \$55 million price tag. The remaining \$10 million was left to be raised by The Good Shepherd and the community.

The dinner and silent auction is expected to raise between \$130,000 and \$150,000, funds that will be put towards regular programming and the square's second phase under construction at 398 King St. W. between Ray and Pearl streets.

Mayor Bob Bratina, Ward 6 councillor Tom Jackson, MPP Ted McMeekin and MP David Christopherson were among the gala crowd at Carmen's banquet hall.

The first phase of Good Shepherd Square is already open — consisting of the new Martha House, a 40-bed shelter for abused women and their children and Mary's Place, a new 20-bed shelter for homeless women.

The second phase includes two buildings, both under construction.

One is an 84-unit affordable rental housing unit for singles and small families that will also hold meeting rooms, a resource centre and the new offices for Good Shepherd's administrative staff.

The other, a 72-unit building, will hold a seniors' wellness centre with a health facility, medical clinic and seniors' programming.

It's the second time The Good Shepherd has turned to the general public for funding assistance in their 50 years in Hamilton. Donations can be made online at [goodshepherdsquare.ca](http://goodshepherdsquare.ca).



**Good Shepherd building at King and Ray.** Pictured here is one of the Good Shepherd buildings on King West at Ray Street. Ron Albertson/The Hamilton Spectator Source: The Hamilton Spectator