

# Hillel gets new home

BY STEPHANIE SIEGEL

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Hillel Jewish University Center this week moved to its new facility in Oakland.

The center, which serves Jewish students from the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham College and Duquesne University, moved from its old space at 4551 Forbes Ave. to its new space across the street at 4607 Forbes Ave.

The agency raised \$3.5 million for the new facility over the course of a fundraising campaign that began in July 1999. Of that amount \$1 million came from an endowment created by community members Edward and Rose Berman.

The move was like "going from living in a tent to living in a house," said Andrew Stewart, vice president of the JUC Board of Directors.

He said the old facility — a 2,000 square-foot second floor space at 4551 Forbes — was meant to be an office, and not a student center.

The new 12,000-square-foot, three-story building will have room for weekly Shabbat dinners and services — something the old space lacked.

"The space here could not accommodate Shabbat services," Sherri Minkoff, director of Development and Special Events, said of the old JUC. "Students had to go to a different building on their campuses each week."

Minkoff said there were plans to hold Reform, Conservative and Orthodox services, beginning in September.

Previously, only Orthodox and "traditional" services were held.

The new facility will also provide space for an activity lounge that will include couches, a television, a stereo, and a pool table.

It will also have computer labs, student conference rooms and multi-purpose space.

"It will be very inviting," Minkoff said. "Like the JCC is the community center, this will be like the college community center."

People involved with the center are hoping that the new space will solve some of the problems they had with the old one.

"Before, students didn't know where Hillel was," said Michael Levinstein, director of Judaic Student Affairs of the University of Pittsburgh. "They'd walk past it, or they didn't want to walk up the stairs. It wasn't glamorous."

Student Board President from Carnegie Mellon University, Rachel Dub agreed.

"It'll make it easier for people to find us," she said. "It will be able to accommodate people for services on Fridays, and we're hoping to start different kinds of classes."

Dub said about 10 students used the old facility on a regular basis.

"We're hoping with the new building people will be flowing through constantly," she said.

Stewart said it will also be a platform for reaching out and being active on campus.