

# School For Homeless Moving To Bigger Facility

## ***Monarch School For Homeless Children Moving To Barrio Logan Building***

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**SAN DIEGO** -- A downtown San Diego school for homeless children will be moving to a larger facility in Barrio Logan.

At the school's current location on Cedar Street, the 10,000-square-foot space is cramped for the 160 students and 50 staff members.

They said the kitchen is too small and there is also not enough space for a playground for the children.

Regardless, school staff said they have been able to use the facility's small outside area to serve many purposes. "It's everything," said Laura White, the school's director of development. "This is our auditorium. This is our cafeteria... This is our after school program."

The school's new home will be an existing building in Barrio Logan which was formerly occupied by the San Diego Housing Commission. Part of the building is currently being used

As the city's winter homeless shelter, but most of the building is unoccupied.

White said she is excited for a much larger space. The building in Barrio Logan is about 56,000 square feet, compared to the school's current location at 10,000 square feet. "We have a full 8,000-square-foot gym which is so exciting," said White. The larger space will also allow the school to grow from 160 students to about 300 or 350. White said the school will remodel the existing building and make it environmentally friendly.

The entire project will cost about \$14.2 million. So far, the Monarch School has raised \$7.7 million for the project.

There are an estimated 2,200 homeless children in the San Diego area. Though the Monarch School will not be able to serve all of them, the school said it wants to remain fairly small to be able to give all students individualized attention.

"We can't wait," said White. "These kids are going to get a fresh start; the school is going to get a fresh start."

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