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## School moves for last time



The Omaha Christian Academy had more than 130 volunteers on July 11 to move the school from 60th and L Streets to its new -- permanent -- home at 10244 Wiesman Drive, near I-680 and Fort Streets. Ten semi-trailers were unloaded by the volunteers, including students and parents. Here, an assembly line of volunteers moves files.

After 37 years and four locations, the Omaha Christian Academy has moved a fifth — and final — time, to its first permanent home.

The private, non-denominational preschool through 12th- grade Christian school moved last weekend to 10244 Wiesman Drive, near Interstate 680 and Fort Street.

About 9 a.m. on July 11, more than 130 volunteers began unloading 10 semitrailer trucks and moving the contents into the new school facility, said Kathy Larsen, director of development and outreach.

All 10 trucks were emptied before 5 p.m., she said.

All that remains at the academy's previous location, at 60th and L Streets, are pianos and electronic equipment. "We hope to bring them over in a week or two," Larsen said.

The preschool, elementary and middle school are in a building that has been renovated; the high school is in a new addition. A new cafeteria connects the two.

In addition to classrooms and the cafeteria, the 35,500 square feet of buildings house administrative offices, a health office, library, teacher's lounge, kitchen, science lab, band and choir room, art room, and family and consumer science room.

Plans call for building a gymnasium and sports complex.

The academy is planning for 250 students this fall, Larsen said. The new location has space for up to 500 students.

Founded in 1972 by Temple Baptist Church in Benson, the school's first location was in that church, and it was known as Temple Baptist Academy. In 1988, the church turned administration of the school over to a parent-led organization and the name was changed to Omaha Christian Academy.

In 1991, the academy moved into the old General Motors training facility at 80th and Dodge Streets. The academy celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1997 by moving into a leased building at 78th Street and Western Avenue provided by the Westside Community Schools.

In summer 2005, the school began leasing space at Liberty Christian Center (formerly Ryan High School) near 60th and L.

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