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BOCES students renovating AIM headquarters

CORNING | Approximately 10 high school students from GST BOCES in Coopers Plains are playing a significant role in a large renovation project at AIM Independent Living Center's Corning headquarters, which can no longer accommodate the growing agency.

AIM, which helps individuals with disabilities lead independent lives, has added several new employees and programs in 2013, and the renovations will add more space to the nonprofit organization's main office.

The students became involved in the project in late summer, when AIM reached out to BOCES because of its reputation for conducting community-service projects. After the sides met, BOCES committed to the project students from its Building Construction class.

For more than a month, BOCES students – four or five per day – have been working at AIM's Corning office for approximately two hours every school day. The students, all of whom are seniors, are earning real-world experience as part of the curriculum.

The project will take the entire school year to complete. It will include new office space on two floors, a new welcome center with televisions and literature, new automatic entrance doors, and a new accessible restroom. Numerous other structural and aesthetic improvements are planned.

By using students, AIM has reduced the cost of the project by approximately \$70,000. With the reduction, the renovation project is estimated to cost \$80,000, although that could grow to \$130,000 if AIM is authorized to expand its footprint. The organization is seeking a 672-square-foot addition to its headquarters, but it has not yet received governmental approval.

The renovations are being paid for by money raised by AIM's ongoing capital campaign. So far, the organization has been able to commit \$55,000 to the project.

Anyone who would like to contribute to AIM's capital campaign should contact Executive Director René Snyder at (607) 962-8225, ext. 117, or rene@aimcil.com.

Last fiscal year, AIM provided services to nearly 2,000 people. Most of AIM's consumers live in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Allegany, Tioga and Tompkins counties.

AIM Independent Living Center is missioned to support an individual's ability to make independent choices through education, advocacy, information and referral.

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AIM-CHEMUNG
Independent Living Center
650 Baldwin Street
Elmira, NY 14901

AIM OUTREACH OFFICES
117 East Steuben Street
Bath, NY 14810

370 Sawyer Street, Bldg 3
Hornell, NY 14843

84 Schuyler Street
Belmont, NY 14813

323 Owego Street
Montour Falls, NY 14865