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New chapter begins as Joy Smith Foundation moves to Niverville

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Written by: Sylvia St. Cyr

The Joy Smith Foundation is putting down new roots in Southern Manitoba, announcing plans to move its headquarters from Winnipeg to a brand new office on Main Street in Niverville this spring.

"We have a new office opening in Niverville," says President and CEO, Janet Campbell of the Joy Smith Foundation. "We will be moving our operations there in March. We're really looking forward to being there in that community."

The Joy Smith Foundation will continue to help people caught and fleeing human trafficking in Winnipeg; however, their headquarters is moving permanently to Main Street in Niverville.

"It's such a wonderful, growing community," says Smith. "It's very family-focused. I think it really reflects the work we do at our foundation. It's really about protecting kids and supporting families. We feel very much at home in Niverville."

The foundation is moving into a brand new building that is currently being built, allowing the team to design it to their specifications.

"We'll officially open our doors at the end of March. It's under construction and coming along very nicely. We just feel so grateful to have the opportunities and paths that have opened for us, to base our office out of Niverville."

Another major project they're working on is creating their Human Trafficking Teaching Campus. The foundation is hoping to have the campus up and running within the following two years.

"[The campus] will really serve the entire country in terms of educating on this issue and strengthening Canada's response on this issue. It'll become a real hub."

Coming up on March 12, on Manitoba's Human Trafficking Awareness Day, the second annual Illuminate Gala will take place at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg.