

Goal reached, sign painted on historic building

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(Photo: Shane Dunlap, *The Evening Sun*)

Nancie Gudmestad recently reached her fundraising goal to display a hand-painted sign on a historic Gettysburg building.

Gudmestad, director of the Shriver House Museum, raised \$2,250 in donations by the end of November, and now the words "National Soldiers' Orphanage Homestead" appear at 777 Baltimore St.

Although the building currently hosts businesses, it served as a home for children orphaned or abandoned after the Civil War from 1866 to 1877.

Marty Mummert, owner of Marty Mummert Studio, painted the signage after working with Gudmestad to pick the design.

"It's perfect," Gudmestad said in a news release from Main Street Gettysburg. "It fits beautifully in with the design of the town and adds yet another point of interest to tell the inspirational stories of the people and history of the town. The lettering is subtle, giving the impression that it's been there for years, but conveys the history of the building."

Her final goal is to include four or five more buildings in the mural project, she said in a previous interview.

Gudmestad raised the money through Kickstarter, an online fundraising site, but also had the help of Main Street Gettysburg. As part of the Baltimore Street Historic Pathway Revitalization Committee, she and the group of 30 property owners, business people and residents work to enhance the quality of life in the Baltimore Street district, said Main Street Gettysburg President Deb Adamik.

"The focus is to attract complimentary types of businesses that blend well with residents and the diverse nature of Baltimore Street. The murals will make the neighborhood a little bit special with such history," she said. "Pulling a group together can make great things happen."

To contribute to the project:

Contact: Nancie Gudmestad at mail@shriverhouse.org or Main Street Gettysburg at info@mainstreetgettysburg.org and 717-337-3491.

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