



# The David and Rebecca Barron Center for Men



80,000

square foot, state of the art shelter facility that serves homeless men in the Cincinnati, OH area.

## Description

The David and Rebecca Barron Center for Men is a new 80,000 sq. ft. facility that serves homeless men who are 18 years and older in the Cincinnati, OH area. It is one of the largest homeless facilities in the Tri-State region and houses not only a shelter, but also complete services to expeditiously move homeless men out of a shelter facility and into permanent housing. The construction of the facility is part of Homeless to Homes, the city's plan to ensure that all homeless individuals have access to shelter and services that will help improve their lives.

Operated by Shelterhouse – an organization that provides basic human services for the men and women of the Greater Cincinnati area – the center includes 150 beds, serves three meals a day, offers individualized case management support services and has fully operational onsite medical and dental clinics, among many other services, according to its website. The center's ultimate goal is to transition its residents into permanent housing within 30 days with an increased income.

Shelterhouse Executive Assistant Christopher Williams said the building is considered state of the art because it includes all of the latest technological advances and equipment which helps create the best possible housing outcomes available.

“It’s designed for our residents and our programming,” said Shelterhouse Director Arlene Nolan in an interview with radio station WXXU. “It has light, it has space. Every element is designed with our clients in mind.”



## Overall Project Goal/Philosophy

Like many transitional living environments, Shelterhouse realized that the facility would see a steady stream of residents and that furniture in particular would be under constant use. For this reason, the center sought out products that were made especially for shelter environments, but that weren’t overly institutional in nature.

## Functional Goal

Williams said when the center researched furniture, it was looking for beds that would allow clients to sleep restfully during the night, and seating that would provide comfortable sitting during the day. Additionally, the center was looking for extremely durable furniture that could hold up to extreme use.

## Aesthetic Goal

The design of the center is modern and minimalist, with exposed ceilings, purposeful use of color and clean design lines. Therefore, the center was looking for furniture that flowed with the color and look of the building, and that came in simple, yet tasteful, designs.

## Safety Goal

While aesthetics were considered very important to the design goals of the facility, the center placed just as much importance on safety. Williams said it was imperative that residents did not have the capability of using the furniture as weapons to harm themselves or someone else. Therefore, furniture that could be broken or torn apart was not acceptable for the facility.

## Selection Process

This is not the first time that Shelterhouse has purchased furniture from Norix. Other facilities that the organization operates feature the company’s highly durable and aesthetically pleasing products made especially for transitional living and shelter environments.

“We decided to buy from Norix because we were familiar with the company’s durable products from previous purchases,” Williams said. “We did not want to constantly repair or replace the furniture and we learned firsthand that we would not be doing that with Norix products.”

In early 2015, Norix Consultative Sales Representative Kevin Carlson met with officials from Shelterhouse and provided them with examples of some of Norix Furniture’s newer offerings that met the needs of the new facility.





“Basically, they needed highly durable furniture that was aesthetically pleasing,” Carlson said. “They also needed furniture that was bed bug resistant and that was easy to clean. And when you go looking for furniture for shelters, you might find products that have a couple of these qualities, but very few that are equipped with all of them. That’s what makes Norix products perfect for transitional living environments. They can stand up to 24/7 use and look good doing it.”

## The Results

In October of 2015, the David and Rebecca Barron Center for Men opened its doors and residents began using the Norix Furniture solutions. Products that the center purchased include:

- 58** Protégé Double Bunk Beds
- 19** Protégé Single Bunk Beds
- 177** Comfort Shield Remedy Mattresses
- 12** Hondo Nuevo Armless Chairs
- 4** Hondo Cubes



“We enjoy the products and would buy it again,” Williams said. “During our open house several shelters asked about our furniture and we referred them to Kevin Carlson and Norix.”

Carlson adds:

“From what they have told me, everyone loves the products. The staff likes the cleanability of the furniture and the fact that it’s durable and isn’t going to break. And they like the look. It definitely fits in with the design scheme as well.”



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Norix designs innovative, robust furniture that meets the real-world need for humanizing challenging environments. For more than 30 years, the company has served the behavioral healthcare, corrections, fire/rescue, military, shelter, public safety and variety of commercial industries by providing uniquely reliable furnishings for every application. All furniture is designed for safety, security and extreme durability. Norix furniture is extraordinary by design, surpassing industry standards for strength, safety and long-term performance. Aside from its durability, Norix products also come in aesthetically pleasing designs and colors and are made especially for facilities that require furniture that can humanize their environments.

The privately held company is headquartered in West Chicago, IL with consultative sales representatives and dealers throughout the U.S. In 2012, Norix launched Safe Environments, a news and information blog serving architects, designers, administrators and facility managers involved in the design, construction, and operation of challenging environments. For more information, call 800-234-4900 or visit [www.norix.com](http://www.norix.com).