

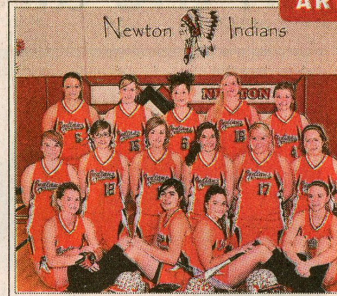
Englewood, Trotwood, Clayton, Brookville, Union and Dayton

# Neighbors

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Newton riding momentum of 2010's title season

## Learning center and pantry to open

Retired Precious Blood sisters realize a need for a literacy center in Trotwood

By Marc Katz  
Staff Writer

TROTWOOD — Retired Precious Blood Sisters Helen Weber and Maryann Bremke are excited about opening the new Brunner Literacy Center and a food pantry in what used to be a Rex electronics store at 4825 Salem Ave.

Originally, the store, donated by Rex to St. Vincent de Paul to be used as a community clothing store and food pantry, was split in two with Precious Blood taking over a good portion for its literacy center and pantry, co-directed by Weber and Bremke.

It also will be used as a youth meeting place, complete with game tables.

While repairs were being made to the building, Weber and Bremke began acquiring books and equipment, much of it donated by the Miami Valley Literacy Center, which recently disbanded.

The clothing store side of the building also was stocked, but Lisa Glandon, director of St. Vincent de Paul development and marketing, said increased fuel costs for trucks bringing over the clothing have made it unrealistic to open that store and all the clothing will go back to the original store on Edwin C. Moses Blvd.



Co-directors for the Precious Blood Brunner Literacy Center on Salem Avenue, retired Sisters Maryann Bremke (left) and Helen Weber. Staff photo by Marc Katz

The literacy center and pantry, however, is a full go.

It was only awaiting final approval from Montgomery County that the building is up to code.

"We began thinking of the needs of Trotwood and how there are no literacy centers in this area," Weber said.

"We've actually already started tutoring some people at Salem Heights (across the street)."

The literacy center has shelves of books and a computer bank along with plenty of tables and chairs.

"This is for adults," Bremke said. "We also have 23 retired sisters who were teachers who are ready

to teach, and 11 new tutors. We've been working with the Career Tech Center and the Mustard Seed at the Parish."

Classes are free.

"All they have to do is come in and learn," Bremke said.

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