

BEST OFFICE BUILDING, 10,000 TO 75,000 SF * AWARD OF MERIT

Operation Smile World Headquarters

Owner/Developer Operation Smile

Architect Clark Nexsen

Contractor Hourigan Construction Corp.

After a long search, Operation Smile accepted Virginia Beach's offer to help the charity relocate its world headquarters from cramped quarters in Norfolk to a new 60,000-square-foot facility on the city's Tidewater Community College campus, near a Sentara hospital and the LifeNet headquarters.

The final plans included ample green space, with peripheral parking to ensure a pedestrian-friendly environment. Sustainable design features create a park-like campus and include bioswales, native grasses and plantings, green-screens and pervious pavements. The building utilizes energy-efficient wall, roof, mechanical, electrical and lighting systems, and daylight floods each space almost all day long. As a further testament to the space's energy efficiency, monthly power bills have been less than those from its previous 35,000-square-foot facility.

The new headquarters and grounds can be toured so visitors can understand how donations are being used and realize how monetary gifts are complementing efforts to reach those in need. The office space is open and light, filled with collaborative ventures and a sense of community. The warehouse space is located directly off the exhibit space with glazed openings enabling visitors to see the reality of the operations.



Judges' comments Operation Smile is committed to reaching children around the world suffering from facial deformities to give them new smiles and new lives. The project includes a new office and multipurpose building coupled with a warehouse facility (accessible to donors).

The jury appreciated the simple design solution for the headquarters in terms of its composition and

detailing. Comprising a robust curtain-wall system with brick masonry walls, the building is dignified, pleasing to the eye and reflective of the mission of the organization. The ordering of the façade illustrates both the architect's rigor and restraint. The understated design is an appropriate backdrop to the exhibits and artwork throughout.