

Blair molds idle Dana College assets into solutions for city's future



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They City of Blair is moving forward to solve several issues facing the community: a lack of housing and attracting a young work force among them.

The answer lies at the old Dana College site. Since the college shut down in 2010, the site has had suitors but nothing has developed. But that's changing.

The Metro Area Planning Agency is helping to secure grants and funding to turn the site into housing and educational opportunities for those who age-out of foster care programs.

The land is owned by Angels Share, a nonprofit group that received the land in 2018.

These groups are combining efforts to alter the landscape.

Blair City Administrator Rod Storm said, "Working with Angel Share and helping them reoccupy and make their dream become a reality will also help the City of Blair continue to grow in the future."

We're told this is a \$10 million to \$14 million investment in the city's future, while addressing concerns about offering options for young people who need a hand up.

Storm said, "We had realtors saying we don't have enough houses to sell in the community. We had industry saying we have no workers."

On top of that, the question of what to do with the campus grounds.

Sometimes it takes a while to figure out how the puzzle pieces fit together.

Ed Shada, President of Angels Sharing Inc. said, "We're selling off some of the land, we're developing workforce housing, the city is building a number of units and they're putting in a street, utilities and they've taken over the streets. We've torn four, five buildings."