



Site preparation is underway for the new Samaritan's Purse warehouse on N.C. 268 East, North Wilkesboro.

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Work starts on Samaritan's site Frances Hayes and Emily Storrow

"We broke ground for the new warehouse on Jan. 11," said Ron Wilcox, chief operating officer for Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian ministry, located in Boone.

Survey and layout work has been completed and steps are being taken to prevent erosion.

"We are now in the process of grading the site. This project is expected to take 12-14 months to complete," said Wilcox.

Samaritan's Purse has 55 people working in Wilkes County at its North American Ministries office who deploy and respond to U.S. disaster. The office is located on N.C. 268 East, close to the site of the new warehouse in North Wilkesboro.

In an earlier story, Wilcox said there are currently no plans for immediate job creation related to the new facility. But there could be future job creations as the Christian ministry grows.

Wilcox has said Samaritan's Purse will consolidate its warehouse inventory in Caldwell County into the new Wilkes facility.

Inventory from the organization's medical arm, World Medical Mission, will be stored at the new Wilkes warehouse, along with international disaster relief supplies, including an emergency field hospital.

Medical supplies from Samaritan's Purse are sent to mission hospitals in some of the world's least developed countries. The emergency field hospital can be dispatched anywhere to provide life-saving treatment in war zones, disaster areas or other places in need of emergency medicine, said Wilcox.

Samaritan's Purse bought the 21-acre site for the warehouse in Feb. 2014 from Lowe's Companies Inc. It was the former location of the company's headquarters in North Wilkesboro.

Future plans for Samaritan's Purse expansion in Wilkes County were announced in January 2015 by government and business leaders following the donation of land in Wilkesboro.

A Samaritan's Purse former board member donated 136 acres of cutover timberland and two smaller parcels off Edgewood Road in November 2014 to Samaritan's Purse.

Samaritan's Purse warehouse

The new facility in North Wilkesboro will consist of a single, approximately 180,000 square-foot building. Of that space, 22,000 square feet will be used as office space, along the front of the building.

The warehouse will occupy 160,000 square feet. At the back of the warehouse, 18 bays will be used to load medical equipment onto trucks to be taken to ports and shipped all over the world.

The area will also be used for the five tractor-trailer disaster relief units, shower trailers and mobile kitchens that are deployed to disaster sites across the country.

Because there is a tributary on the eastern side of the property, the building will sit slightly above ground level to comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain standards.

Vannoy Construction of Jefferson are the contractors for the new facility.