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The foyer of Spectrum of Supportive Services, inside the old Van Rooy Coffee Co. in Cleveland, shows off the 110-year-old building's brick and beam construction.

Mental-health agency revives old Van Rooy Coffee building

DOUGLAS TRATTNER
Special to The Plain Dealer

For nearly 70 years, the aroma of freshly roasted coffee emanated from the Van Rooy Coffee Co., a fixture along the West Shoreway. These days, the smell of coffee still permeates the building, but its source is a plain old coffee maker.

When Van Rooy relocated in 2003, the historic post-and-beam brick structure was renovated to accommodate Spectrum of Supportive Services, a mental-health agency that provides housing, employment and support services to mentally ill adults in Cuyahoga County. The organization helps place 200 people a year with private employers.

NAME: Spectrum of Supportive Services

ADDRESS: 2900 Detroit Ave., Cleveland

VITALS: Nonprofit mental health support agency

“We liked the atmosphere created by an old industrial space,” says Stephen Morse, president. “And because we were starting with a blank canvas, we were able to design our offices exactly the way we wanted.”

Fitted into the third floor of the 110-year-old building are offices for consumer intake, assessment and training. The floor also serves as the agency’s adminis-

trative offices, with 25 employees spread across 10,000 square feet.

To ready the space for its new tenants, workers blasted decades of paint off wood beams and brick walls. Each of the building’s numerous windows had to be removed, repaired, repainted and reinstalled. But the work has been well received.

“Our consumers appreciate coming to a place that feels like a normal office and not a mental health institution,” adds Morse.

Trattner is a free-lance writer in Cleveland Heights.

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