

Community group opens center

East

Tacoma:

\$1.3 million facility just the start for Korean Women's Association

BY DAVID WICKERT
The News Tribune

More than 30 years after it was founded as a social club, the Korean Women's Association has moved into new quarters fitting for the major institution it has become.

On Thursday, the association dedicated a \$1.3 million, 10,000-square-foot community service center in East Tacoma that will house 22 social service programs ranging from English classes to mental health services.

It also broke ground on a \$1.2 million emergency domestic violence shelter that will support Asian women — the first

■ The Korean Women's Association can be reached at 253-535-4202 or at 125 E. 96th St., Tacoma, WA 98445.

of its kind in the Northwest.

Members called it a milestone for a group that has grown to serve thousands of people of many nationalities.

"This is an exciting day for all of us," said Sulja Warnick, chairwoman of the KWA board of directors. "Finally, we have our own home and building."

The Korean Women's Association didn't have much besides the homes of its members when it was founded in 1972. A

Please see **Center, B4**



PETER HALEY | THE NEWS TRIBUNE

From left, KWA leaders Ok Sun Wilson, Nam Hi Kim and Sulja Warnick at the group's center in Tacoma on Thursday.



