

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

SECOND CHANCE HOMES GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

Second Chance Homes is opening its doors to its first four residents on March 19, 2008! There will be a **grand opening celebration and ceremony** at the main house on **March 18, 2008, from noon to 2 p.m.** The home is located at 122 South 29th Street in Billings. The news conference, scheduled to begin at 12:30 PM, will include:

- Members of the Second Chance Homes Staff
- Members of the Second Chance Homes Leadership Team
- Members of the Second Chance Homes Board of Directors
- Community Volunteers
- City and County Officials

Following the news conference, guests are welcome and invited to tour the main home and enjoy refreshments.

The Second Chance Homes received a five-year federal U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant totaling \$2.5 million dollars in October 2007. Many hours and lots of hard work by the newly hired staff, Leadership Team, Board of Directors, and numerous volunteers from the community have made this dream a reality. Coupled with donations from the community, the money from the grant will allow the doors to open for women in recovery and their children on March 19, 2008.

Despite the coordinated efforts of those listed above, the Second Chance Homes are still in need of many donations, both monetary and in the form of furniture and other household items. In addition to those items needed for the main home at 122 South 29th Street, over the next few months the Second Chance Homes will be locating and opening other sober and supportive living homes for women and their children, and men and their children. The federal grant is specifically designated to provide operational funding for Second Chance Homes including the main house and four additional sober and supportive living homes.

WHAT IS SECOND CHANCE HOMES (SCH)?

The main house at SCH will be a safe and sober home for mothers recovering from substance abuse and their children. The home is specifically designed for mothers struggling with addiction who have temporarily lost custody of their children to Child & Family Services. The main house offers the opportunity for children to remain in the care of their mother in a secure home with 24-hour on-site staff. Mothers in the home will participate in various community treatment programs based on their individual needs. They will also receive one-on-one parenting instruction and individualized services and referrals to address mental health issues, domestic violence, long-term housing needs, job training, life-skills, and any additional issues preventing families from leading happy, healthy, and productive lives.

WHAT IS SOBER AND SUPPORTIVE LIVING?

The grant will assist in opening four sober and supportive living homes throughout the Billings area. Two homes (one for men and one for women) will serve addicted parents not ready to have children in their care, but who need housing to begin this process. Two additional homes (one for men and one for women) will act as both a step down for families leaving the main house, and also as preventative placement for families identified as at risk, but who do not require legal involvement with Child & Family Services. Sober and supportive family housing will not be staffed full time, but will have case management and on-site services available.

SCH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

Chair: Becky Bey (Yellowstone County Family Drug Treatment Court)
Kristin Lundgren (Roots of Promise: The Alliance for Children and Families)
Sue Anderson, Sandy Velin, and Melissa Peterson (Region III CFS Division – DPHHS)
Mary Gilluly (The Family Tree Center)
Vicki Ingraham (Parent)
Bernice Mason (Yellowstone County Extension)
Laura Harper (The Mental Health Center/Journey Recovery)
Shannon Joda (Jodatech Computer Services)
Colleen & Jim Wulf (Wulf Real Estate)
Dr. Brenda Roche (Arrowhead Psychological & Behavioral Services)

SCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President & Secretary: Juli Pierce (Yellowstone County Attorney's Office)
Vice-President: Kristin Lundgren (Roots of Promise: The Alliance for Children and Families)
Treasurer: Rakesh Sah (MSU-Billings)
Merry Richmond (Region III Child & Family Services Division – DPHHS)
Sandra Lippy (The Mental Health Center/Journey Recovery)
Gary Branae (Montana State Legislature)
Mark Noennig (Attorney)
Colleen O'Connor (Department of Corrections)

SCH MAIN HOUSE STAFF

Sheryl Smart – Family Program Manager
Chris Daem – Clinical Supervisor & Family Liaison
Linda Woods – Shared Care & Supportive Living Manager
Anjonette Zable – Day Staff
Jennifer Jimison – Day Staff
Austin Olson – Weekend Staff
Bree Baracker – Weekend Staff
Bobbi Street – Night Staff

SCH is especially grateful to the following volunteers and people who helped make the Grand Opening a reality:

Room Mates – Kelli Hahn, interior design, paint, décor

Sharon Hahn, murals

House to Home – Paul Ferguson and Reggie Childers, construction

Dan O'Donnell (*St. Bernard's Social Justice Committee*) - repairs, construction

Skyview High School BPA volunteers - cleaning, painting

Gary Saindon (*RSVP* volunteer) – construction, repairs, painting

Dovetail Designs – Craig Meier, donation of building materials

A-1 JD's Lock

ABC (Aaron's Back Company) – moving, delivering furniture

Slumberland

Sandy Stokoe (*RSVP coordinator*) – volunteer services