

April 4, 2007

CONTACT:

Rosemary Boisvert
Southwest Florida Addiction Services
(239) 338-2977

Susan Bennett, APR, CPRC
Susan Bennett Marketing & Media, L.C.
(239) 277-5255

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SWFAS OPENS MORE
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

SWFAS has opened more long-term housing for persons recovering from substance abuse and mental health disorders at its Transitional Living Center in central Fort Myers.

The newest “permanent supportive housing” provides homes for six individuals on South Street in central Fort Myers. Residents, many of whom come through SWFAS’ Detoxification Center, may remain in the housing as long as they live a drug-free lifestyle, obtain work, and pay monthly rent that is based on their income.

While the Transitional Living Center campus is expanding, SWFAS’ Detoxification Center is turning away more than 150 people per month because there is no room at the 25-bed facility. SWFAS is in the middle of an \$8 million capital campaign to build a new Detoxification Center on Evans Avenue in Fort Myers.

“The Transitional Living Center is a vivid example of the success residents in recovery can have after they receive detoxification, treatment and support. The residents who live here become a cohesive unit, supporting each other, and instituting their own social structure, like pot luck suppers and a neighborhood watch,” said Transitional Living Center Director Rosemary Boisvert. “It’s a way to teach them to be responsible for their own community.”

Boisvert said demand for the new housing is high and she expects the beds to be filled within a week.

more--

2-2-2-2

The new permanent supportive housing, consisting of two duplex units with three bedrooms each, was built with grants from the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP), in partnership with the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, and the Community Development Block Grant.

The new permanent supportive housing is part of the Transitional Living Center campus of SWFAS that stretches from Dixie Parkway to Grand Avenue. In addition to permanent supportive housing for 22 individuals and 11 families, the TLC provides residential treatment for 35 men and women with drug and/or alcohol problems in either a short-term residential program (one month) or in a four to six-month transitional living program. The facility is supported by management and medical staff already in place at the SWFAS Detoxification Center across the street.

Approximately 35 percent of the residents have a mental illness in addition to substance abuse issues.

SWFAS is the oldest and largest comprehensive substance abuse treatment program in Southwest Florida. Since 1980, SWFAS has helped more than 63,000 residents in Lee, Charlotte, Glades and Hendry counties rebuild their lives. SWFAS offers treatment and prevention services at all levels of intensity including residential, outpatient counseling, and group therapy. In addition, SWFAS provides detoxification services for adults, prevention programming, and an Employee Assistance Program for about 80 Southwest Florida businesses.

For more information, contact Boisvert at 338-2977.

Photo: Newest permanent supportive housing opened by SWFAS on South Street in Fort Myers.