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For Immediate Release

Hillcrest Washington Youth Home, Inc. to Hold Press Conference Announcing Launch of Safe Place Program

(Evansville, IN – March 9, 2011) On Monday, March 14, 2011 Hillcrest Washington Youth Home, Inc. (Hillcrest) will hold a press conference announcing the launch of its local Safe Place Program in Evansville. The press conference will take place at 2:00 p.m. at the Welborn Conference Center located at 420 Mulberry Street in Downtown Evansville.

In response to the rising number of homeless and at-risk youth in Vanderburgh County, Hillcrest is expanding its services to include an outreach program using the nationally recognized model, Project Safe Place. Since 1987, Hillcrest has operated a residential program for youth that provides services to males and females ages 6 to 18 years. Services include both long term residential and emergency shelter care to youth who are in need of placement for reasons such as delinquency, running away, substance use, and parental abuse and/or neglect.

When a youth asks for help at a Safe Place site, Hillcrest immediately dispatches a counselor to meet with the youth. If counseling or residential assistance is needed, the youth is transported to Hillcrest where staff will determine and facilitate the help needed. Safe Place is a way to reach young people while they are still in the early stages of crisis, hopefully preventing serious problems from becoming worse.

“We are excited to offer Safe Place, a nationally recognized program, to our community. Our first priority at Hillcrest is to serve the needs of youth in our community. This program will allow us to ensure that all youth who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness have safe places in their own community to seek assistance,” said G. William Curtis, Executive Director of Hillcrest Washington Youth Home, Inc.

If you have any questions regarding the press conference, please contact Rebecca Glines, Communications Manager at 812.436.4221 or glinesb@southwestern.org.

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About National Safe Place

National Safe Place is an outreach and prevention program that is designed to provide immediate safety and access to services for any youth in need. In partnership with over 360 youth serving agencies and over 17,000 businesses and community organizations across the United States, the Safe Place program educates youth about alternatives to running away and homelessness and provides easily accessible links to service providers.