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For Immediate Release

Hillcrest To Be Lead Agency for Homeless Youth Drop In Center Project

(Evansville, IN - March 16, 2009) Hillcrest Washington Youth Home, Inc. is pleased to announce that they have accepted the lead agency position in the planning, data gathering, development and implementation of a Homeless/Runaway and At Risk Youth Drop In Center in Evansville, In. The effort is in full cooperation and collaboration with all of the youth serving agencies of the Homeless Youth Coalition.

In meetings over the past year the Homeless Youth Coalition determined that one of the greatest needs was the development of a center that includes outreach services and a drop in center. In further talks among the coalition partners it was established that due to the tremendous amount of experience Hillcrest has had working with at risk youth in the community that Hillcrest would be a great fit for lead agency.

The board of directors of Hillcrest agreed that Hillcrest was a great fit and that they could start the planning phase. But first, Hillcrest needed to find out more about these youth and their needs on a local basis.

The process will begin immediately. Over the next few weeks Hillcrest will be contacting key stakeholders currently involved with the coalition to get an idea of how they envision the drop in center. We also will try to gather any information they might have on the homeless youth population. Over the next three months Hillcrest will be visiting various drop in centers throughout the state and the Midwest to talk with them, see how they started, how many they see each year, the kinds of services they offer and how they are funded. Hillcrest will also be looking at various potential locations for the center. Within the next 6-9 months Hillcrest will have engaged some of the homeless youth in the planning process through various community activities. Then Hillcrest will use all of the data collected to develop a plan for the drop in center. All along the way Hillcrest will be looking at potential funding sources and available grants.

Hillcrest will also be turning to the community for their financial and in-kind support, as well as, much needed volunteers to help staff the facility once it opens. These are exciting times for Hillcrest and our community. It is great to know that Hillcrest will be part of the "10 year journey to end homelessness in Evansville and Vanderburgh County."

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