

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Successful Friendship Shelter Open House Launches Annual Fund Drive

Laguna Beach, Calif., November 7, 2006 — At a Nov. 4 Open House attracting more than 60 attendees, Friendship Shelter launched its **Annual Fund drive**. The Annual Fund is a **critical source of operating income** supporting the Shelter's programs, and Friendship Shelter has issued **an appeal to the generosity of Orange County residents** to invest in returning fellow citizens to stability and productivity.

"We are proud to report 100% participation in the Annual Fund by our board of directors and staff, as well as several cornerstone gifts from businesses and individuals," said Executive Director Carol Rhoads. "The majority of our budget is derived from contributions, primarily from individuals. The remainder comes from government sources, foundation grants and rents paid by residents at Henderson House, our subsidized, transitional apartment building in San Clemente."

"Foundation grants frequently seek to fund new initiatives, but we need to support our ongoing core program," Rhoads continued. "It provides proven, successful rehabilitation services to more than 300 homeless clients annually, helping them to become productive members of our community once again."

*"After 30 years as a computer technician, I suddenly found my job outsourced overseas, and I couldn't find another one. I lost my confidence, turned to alcohol, alienated my family and attempted suicide. With Friendship Shelter I found discipline, structure, life-rebuilding skills, a new beginning with my family, and a job I am proud of." -- A Friendship Shelter graduate*

Since its founding in 1988, the programs, staff and volunteers of Friendship Shelter have worked to write happy endings to the stories of more than 5,000 homeless Orange County adults. Friendship Shelter's accountability-driven 60-day Self-Sufficiency Program provides 29 adults shelter and meals, individual case management, substance abuse recovery, healthcare solutions, life skills training and more in a highly structured setting at its Laguna Beach facility.

*"I never knew what a goal was, much less that I could set my own and be accountable for them until I went to Friendship Shelter. Today I have a job and a good life, thanks to the programs and people of Friendship Shelter." -- A Friendship Shelter graduate*

Residents meet every morning at 6:45 to set their goals for the day, and again at 6:45 in the evening to report on their progress. They are required to work and save 80 percent of their income. Graduates of the program are eligible for transitional living at Henderson House in San Clemente. Subsidized rents and case management help them solidify their gains as they return to fully self-sufficient lives. There is always a waiting list to enter the program.

*“I had what seemed like a charmed life: a wonderful family, a beautiful home, a rewarding job and a church home. Suddenly, I was blindsided by a completely unexpected divorce. I hit rock-bottom, and it took the structure of Friendship Shelter to get me back on my feet. Thanks to it, I live every day in gratitude, trying to give back to my community.” -- A Friendship Shelter graduate*

Board Chairman Joe Ziomek observed, “There are 3.5 million homeless Americans in any one year. Eroding income from employment, loss of benefits, lack of affordable housing, and declining public assistance are some of the reasons that this number is growing. Half of homeless women are victims of domestic violence, and up to 40 percent of homeless men, I am sorry to say, are veterans. A donation to our Annual Fund is an investment in the citizens and the future of Orange County.”

*“It was so painful for me to live apart from my mom and see her battles with alcoholism that I moved in with her, determined to help her change her life. However, I quickly found myself being pulled into her world of partying and addiction. Friendship Shelter helped me to get back on track; today I am in school and my mom is seeking help.” -- A Friendship Shelter graduate*

“The need for Friendship Shelter’s homeless rehabilitation program is just as strong today as it was when I helped to found the program in 1988,” commented Father Colin Henderson. “We have assisted more than 5,000 adults to return to productive lives. With new leadership at the helm and in several key staff positions, we are building on our successes. Your donations are essential if we are to maintain this new momentum.

The organization’s goals for the coming years include improving the graduation rate at the Shelter, expanding the transitional housing program, and helping other communities to replicate the Friendship Shelter model.

The Annual Fund drive is being chaired by Director and Board Chair-elect Ilene Glassman. “A successful Annual Fund drive is essential if we are to build on Friendship Shelter’s past success and achieve our goals for the future. It is the launch pad for an exciting new phase in Friendship Shelter’s important work,” noted Glassman.

Individual tour appointments or tax-deductible gifts can be made by contacting Director of Development Jennifer Greenwalt at 949.494.6928, or visiting Friendship Shelter’s website, [www.friendshipshelter.org](http://www.friendshipshelter.org).

Friendship Shelter provides housing, a variety of support services, and a comprehensive rehabilitation program to homeless adults. It is the only year-round emergency shelter in south Orange County for homeless unaccompanied adults.

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