



improving lives, strengthening communities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 11 - Jan Shaw Youth Home Ribbon-Cutting and Housewarming Teenage Girls Gain a Safe Haven Built Just for Them

Helena, MT. On Thursday, June 11, from noon until 1 p.m., Helenans are invited to welcome the Jan Shaw Youth Home into the community as a critical sanctuary for teenage girls facing difficult circumstances. The Home, situated off Henderson next to the Salvation Army Church, is part of Montana Youth Homes (MYH), a program of Rocky Mountain Development Council (RMDC). MYH provides at-risk boys and girls, ages 12-17, with a safe, family-like setting when abuse, neglect, or involvement with law enforcement prevents them from living at home. This new six-bedroom Jan Shaw home was built for MYH's female residents by 40 Helena and Capitol high school carpentry students. Boys will continue to live at the Margaret Stuart Youth Home.

“This is honestly a “dream-home” for girls in the midst of crisis,” says MYH Director Emily McVey. “It’s spacious, welcoming, and cheerful; well-built and conveniently located. So many individuals, businesses, and organizations in the community have worked creatively to make it a reality.”

State and local dignitaries join RMDC to thank project partners (the City of Helena, Lewis & Clark County, and the Montana Department of Commerce) and the many donors who contributed labor, materials, furnishings, ideas, and funds. The ribbon cutting is also a housewarming party. Attendees are invited to bring toiletries or household laundry and cleaning supplies—always needed by the Home. Other fundraising efforts are still in progress to complete furnishing the Home, including a Radio-athon hosted by Cherry Creek Radio on Friday, July 12. The Jan Shaw Youth Home will begin accepting residents July 1.

Housing

Head Start

Rocky Mountain Preschool

Energy Share

LIEAP

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Mental Health Crisis Planning

Kids Management Authority (KMA)

Agency on Aging

Daily Dinner Clubs

Foster Grandparents

Meals on Wheels

Retired & Senior Volunteers

Senior Citizen Centers

Senior Companions

Senior Transportation

For further information about the construction of the Jan Shaw Youth Home, contact RMDC Director of Community Development, Jeff Miller at 442-1236 ext. 101. For information about Montana Youth Home programs, contact RMDC, MYH Director Emily McVey at 449-3038.

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