

Media Contact:
Gina Gavan
Cell: 702-275-2624
gina@tribalminds.com



For Immediate Release

THE HELP OF SOUTHERN NEVADA SHANNON WEST HOMELESS YOUTH CENTER GETS READY TO CELEBRATE 4 YEARS AND PROVIDES MORE THAN 14,000 SHELTER NIGHTS IN A YEAR.

Las Vegas, Nevada (February 2012) – HELP of Southern Nevada, a local nonprofit serving Southern Nevada for 42 years announces that April 2012 will mark the 4th year anniversary of acquiring the Homeless Teen Youth Center. In April of 2008, the largest social services agency outside of local government, HELP of Southern Nevada assumed the operations and management of the Homeless Youth Center located in the Corridor of Hope, formerly known as the Center for Independent Living. The Youth Center was later renamed and dedicated to Shannon West, a long-time community leader who has been instrumental in the regional approach to end homelessness in Southern Nevada. October 8, 2010 unveiled the official renaming of the center now known as HELP of Southern Nevada’s Shannon West Homeless Youth Center (SWHYC).

HELP of Southern Nevada SWHYC served 357 unduplicated homeless youth with 14,457 shelter nights last year. The Center provides services for at-risk youth ages 16 to 24 years of age, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The residential facility has the capacity to house up to 65 youth, which includes one converted residential unit to meet American Disability Act (ADA) guidelines.

“We’ve seen an increase in the number of Homeless Teens needing services since we’ve taken over the SWHYC and the level of care the kids need has also increased. Our goal is to provide the best case management, the necessary treatment, support and services needed so we can get these kids back on track to get a diploma, receive an education and become positive contributing adults in our community.” Said, HELP of Southern Nevada CEO, Terrie D’Antonio. HELP of Southern Nevada is recognized among its peers for responding to the changing needs of the community. Programs and services are refined to meet the growing needs and better serve the low income, the homeless, the unemployed and those in crisis.

Since assuming the operations of the shelter in 2008, HELP has raised the bar on the level of care the Homeless Youth Center is able to provide. Under the direction of HELP the agency has realigned programming that is focused on education and vocational training and established Workforce Investment Act (WIA)-Youth funding after taking over the operations of the SWHYC. Shannon West Homeless Youth Center is a Level III (3) Residential Inpatient and Level I Outpatient drug and alcohol treatment facility certified by the State of Nevada Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA). The residential and day programming offered by SWHYC enables the youth to learn the skills necessary to succeed as adults as well as to receive wrap around services offered at the main HELP campus to assist on their road to self-sufficiency. HELP of Southern Nevada SWHYC needs your support and donations to meet the increasing needs of the homeless youth in our community.

ABOUT SHANNON E. WEST

Shannon West retired from the position of Regional Homeless Services Coordinator in 2010. She's held various director level positions at Clark County and has established several community programs and initiatives in Southern Nevada including; the Southern Nevada Gang Task Force, the Clark County Neighborhood Services Unit, the Ready for Life Collaborative (focusing on transitioning youth and young adults), and Camp AnyTown. Shannon has been recognized nationally and locally for her community building efforts.

ABOUT HELP OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

HELP of Southern Nevada operates nine departments and provides jobs to ninety employees and serves approximately 100,000 unduplicated clients each year. The services HELP provides assist low-income families, homeless teens and adults as well as individuals, to become more self-sufficient through direct services, trainings and referrals. Programs available include; Emergency Resources, Family Services, Weatherization, Community Alternative Sentencing, Work Opportunities Readiness Center, Holiday Assistance, Nevada 2-1-1 Call Center and Homeless and Youth Services. For more information, call HELP of Southern Nevada at 702-369-4357 or visit www.helpsonv.org.

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If you'd like more information, or to schedule an interview contact Gina Gavan at 702-275-2624 or email gina@tribalminds.com