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## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **HELP OF SOUTHERN NEVADA'S SHANNON WEST HOMELESS YOUTH CENTER UNVEILS NEW RESIDENTIAL ROOM THAT WILL SERVE HOMELESS YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES**

#### **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Tour to be Held February 29, 3pm to 4pm**

**Las Vegas, Nevada** (February 2012) – HELP of Southern Nevada, a local nonprofit serving Southern Nevada for 42 years announces that on February 29, 2012 at 3pm, a ribbon cutting ceremony and tour of the shelter will take place at the Shannon West Homeless Youth Center (SWHYC). They are opening the door to the recently completed work on a residential unit that was an Eagle Scout project of a local 15 year old boy. The residential room will allow HELP to accommodate the future needs of a disabled youth facing homelessness and the need for shelter and services. The SWHYC is located at 1417 Las Vegas Boulevard North.

The project follows the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and was part of an Eagle Scout community service project. The driving force behind the project is 15 year old Dallin Kephart. Dallin told us, "I learned so much by being able to work with so many different people and I also learned how family-oriented the youth center is...the kids have to do chores and clean their room." He got the materials and labor donated and he helped coordinate the project with his supervisors. Some of the work included moving door jams, laying new flooring, pouring concrete for the ramps and making adjustments to the bathroom.

#### **DETAILS FOR RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AND TOUR**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 29 from 3pm – 4pm

**WHERE:** Shannon West Homeless Youth Center (SWHYC) 1417 Las Vegas Boulevard North located on the corner of Las Vegas Boulevard North and Foremaster

**WHAT:** Ribbon cutting ceremony with local dignitaries and special guests, plus Shannon West and the amazing 15 year old Eagle Scout, Dallin Kephart who remodeled a residential room to fit the standards for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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### **ABOUT THE 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 the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. 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.

### **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](http://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](mailto:gina@tribalminds.com)