



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFE HAVEN WIDENS WELCOME WITH SHELTER EXPANSION

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Safe Haven Family Shelter, Middle Tennessee’s only homeless shelter for entire families, has announced an expansion and renovation of its facility that will allow it to increase its capacity by more than 150 percent.

To celebrate the expansion, a groundbreaking ceremony will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 10 a.m. The event, to be held at Safe Haven Family Shelter, 1234 Third Ave. South, will include special guests U.S. Representative Jim Cooper, Mayor Karl Dean, former and current Safe Haven residents, and a second-grade class from Whitsitt Elementary School.

“Our goal is to serve more families and increase our education, training and therapy services,” executive director Joyce Lavery said. “Expanding and renovating will help us keep more families together while ensuring their dignity and empowering them to achieve self-sufficiency.”

“Being homeless often means that a family has to be split in order to survive,” U.S. Representative Jim Cooper said. “Safe Haven is our city’s only resource that keeps families together while parents learn valuable job skills and children are encouraged to stay on track at school. Expanding this program can only make Nashville a greater city.”

Safe Haven houses an average of 38 families, including 57 children, each year. After the renovation, the shelter will be able to serve at least 100 families, including more than 150 children, annually.

“I have seen for many years the effectiveness and life-changing impact of Safe Haven,” Mayor Karl Dean said. “I am very happy to see them making a major move toward growing and expanding a program that has such a high success rate in working with families to battle back from homelessness to success.”

The program has demonstrated success for nearly three decades, with almost 85 percent of Safe Haven’s residents departing from the shelter with stable employment and secured housing.

Safe Haven is well on its way toward raising the \$3 million needed to fully fund the expansion and renovation. Community partners, donors and volunteers have helped Safe Haven reach this milestone to provide more new beginnings for homeless families. For more information on

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how to donate to Safe Haven Family Shelter, contact director of development Rachael Wilkins at (615) 256-8195 or rwilkins@safehaven.org.

About Safe Haven Family Shelter

Safe Haven is the only shelter-to-housing program of its kind in Middle Tennessee that accepts the entire homeless family. The staff works to keep families together and provide comprehensive services that empower them to achieve lasting self-sufficiency. Safe Haven Family Shelter's comprehensive approach is one of service, compassion, trauma-informed care and evidence-based practices. More information can be found at www.safehaven.org.

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