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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shelter House reaches building goal with state grant

August 31, 2009/Iowa City, Iowa: Shelter House Community Shelter and Transition Services was awarded a \$2.66 million grant toward the construction of its new facility by the Iowa Finance Authority.

The grant is made possible by Governor Chet Culver's three-year I-Jobs initiative, which aims to strengthen Iowa's economy and create jobs.

"This is a milestone day for Shelter House. We are so very grateful to our many community donors whose support leveraged this grant," said Shelter House Executive Director Crissy Canganelli. "We are also grateful to the Iowa Finance Authority and to State Senator Bob Dvorsky who has consistently championed the cause."

The current Shelter House has been laboring at the limits of its capacity for a number of years. The new facility, to be located at 429 Southgate Avenue in Iowa City, will increase overnight shelter from 29 to 70 beds and will include space for life skills and employment training. It will provide separate dormitories for single men and single women (with rooms set aside for military veterans), a families-only area, and space for outreach services, Drop-in Center, training room, nurse's office, kitchen, dining room, and laundry.

With the Iowa Finance Authority grant completes the funding necessary for the construction of the new facility. The remaining phases of construction will be let out for bid immediately to local contractors. Occupancy of the new building is planned for October 2010.

Shelter House is a non-profit organization and Johnson County's only general use homeless shelter, providing transitional shelter and supportive services to men, women, and children, military veterans, the disabled and the elderly since 1983. With its supportive services, Shelter House aims to help individuals achieve self-sufficiency and become full and productive members of the community.

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