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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Shelter House Announces July 1<sup>st</sup> Groundbreaking

-- July 1<sup>st</sup> 4:30 PM – 6:00PM --

IOWA CITY (June 25, 2009) – On July 1, 2009, Shelter House will break ground for a new shelter facility at 429 Southgate Avenue at the corner of Southgate Avenue and Waterfront Drive. The groundbreaking will launch the public phase of the capital campaign “*Opening Doors.*” To date, Shelter House has raised just over \$2.07 million in pledges, donations, and grants toward the \$4 million project goal. The new facility will replace the existing shelter on North Gilbert Street—a single family home over 100 years old.

The public is invited to celebrate the groundbreaking which will begin at 4:30 p.m. with brief presentations by Connie Champion, Capital Campaign Chair; Christina Canganelli, Executive Director, Shelter House; Christine Sheetz, Executive Director, United Way of Johnson County; Regenia Bailey, Iowa City Mayor; Dottie Persson, President, Shelter House Board. These presentations will be followed by an ecumenical land blessing by the Reverend Mel Schlachter, Pastor, Trinity Episcopalian Church and the groundbreaking. Shelter House Board members, Capital Campaign members and Shelter House staff will use shovels to officially break ground for the new shelter. All local elected officials and Shelter House supporters are invited to participate in this long-awaited event. Dane’s Dairy ice cream will be served to all.

Shelter House is Johnson County’s only general use homeless shelter. The Shelter House mission is simply stated but far-reaching: to provide shelter, basic and transitional resources, while encouraging self-sufficiency, to any person in our community who is homeless.

Shelter House residents include men, women, and children; military veterans; the disabled and the elderly.

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