



FOR MEDIA INFORMATION:
Eileen Ansel Conery - 713-856-8780
(AnselConeryComm@Houston.rr.com)

BUILDING NEW LIVES FOR ADOLESCENTS WITH THE CENTER FOR SUCCESS AND INDEPENDENCE'S NEW FACILITY

HOUSTON (October 25, 2004) – A lifelong dream is about to get even bigger for two Houstonians who established The Center for Success and Independence to provide residential treatment and counseling for at-risk adolescents in Houston. Former Houston Oiler and Executive Director, Robert Woods, M.Ed., along with Clinical Director, Marylou Erbland, Ph.D., and Karl Webster, Administrative Director, founded the organization in 1999 after years of planning. They soon will move into a new facility twice the size of their current location with nearly double the number of beds and updated amenities.

“From our years of experience, we realized the tremendous need for a residential treatment program that catered to at-risk adolescents. For so long, there truly were no options available for these kids and they were falling through the cracks in the system,” said Marylou Erbland, Clinical Director for The Center for Success and Independence. “The Center has made an enormous impact on bettering the lives of these adolescents and giving them the tools they need to function within their own families and ultimately the Houston community.”

The Center will celebrate the opening of its new facility, located at 3722 Pinemont Drive, at an open house on Monday, November 15 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5 p.m. The new location, with 20,000 total square feet, will house 44 beds, up from 26; an educational building with classrooms and a computer lab for the HISD school component; individual and group therapy rooms; indoor and outdoor recreational areas; as well as room for future expansion. JohnDazeyDesign was the architect for the new location with construction by Tellepsen Solutions.

The 501(c)(3) organization was established to provide residential treatment for adolescents with behavioral, emotional or substance abuse problems. It is the most comprehensive psychiatric residential treatment program for adolescents in the state of Texas and one of very few community-based, nongovernmental psychiatric residential programs for adolescents in the United States.

The Center for Success and Independence has treated more than 200 adolescents since its founding in the fall of 1999 and boasts the highest success rate in the state at an impressive 80 percent with more than 90 percent of all funds going directly to client care. Each client receives 20 hours of treatment services per week from highly professional and qualified staff, which includes four Ph.D.-level professionals; Master-level therapists and administrators; substance abuse counselors; and nurses. The staff works closely with the juvenile justice system and community agencies including Child Protective Services, MHMRA and an array of faith-based organizations.

The Center recently was awarded a \$400,000, five-year federal grant for the treatment of and transitional living for homeless teenagers from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. They also were awarded a state grant, beginning September 1, to treat substance abuses. The Center is licensed by the Texas Commission on Alcohol & Drug Abuse and by the Texas Department of Protective & Regulatory Services.

The mission of The Center for Success and Independence is to provide comprehensive, compassionate and quality treatment to youth, ages 12-17, with behavioral, emotional or addictive disorders that are interfering with effective functioning in life. Utilizing sound clinical methods of treatment, clients will be prepared to successfully reintegrate into the community and to become fully functioning adults.

For additional information, please call 713-426-4545 or visit www.tcsi.org.

#