

# HAVEN HOUSE

## Neighborhood Meeting - May 27, 2014

### Mission of Haven House

“Haven House is a faith-based organization providing supported and structured living opportunities to foster healing and self-sufficiency for women coming out of prison.”

# Topics

- The need for housing for persons coming out of prison
- How Haven House will operate
- How Haven House will promote public safety
- Whether Haven House will affect property values
- Community Support for Haven House

# Why is Haven House needed?

- The need for housing for the formerly incarcerated is immense.
- Nationwide: 725,000 people are released from prison annually
- Statewide: Alaska Prisoner Reentry Task Force - Five Year Strategic Plan
- Juneau numbers: 60 women on supervised probation/parole

# Persons coming out of prison need housing

- The National Housing Law Project, “According to criminal justice officials, . . . finding housing is the biggest challenge faced by individuals returning to the community.”
- Alaska Prisoner Reentry Task Force, “Without a stable residence, it is nearly impossible for newly released individuals to reconnect positively to a community.”  
(quoting Council of State Governments Justice Center)

# The present system is not working.

- Two out of three persons released from prison return to prison within three years
- The present system is not working to keep people from going back to prison and it is EXPENSIVE: \$49,800 to incarcerate a person for one year.
- If Alaska does not adopt new approaches to help people stay out of prison, the number of prisoners in our state will double by 2030

# What is working? Supportive housing for persons coming out of prison.

- Alaska Correctional Ministries (ACM) has two transitional homes in Anchorage for persons released from prison: one for men and one for women
- New Hope Safe Living House is the home for women.
- Alaska Reentry Task Force says that ACM uses “best practices in mentoring, case management and transitional services program.”
- **Haven House is modeled after New Hope Safe Living House.**

# What will Haven House do?

- Provide housing for up to nine women who have recently been released from prison
- Select residents by a thorough screening process
- One-month trial period
- Six month-commitment (1 month + 5 months)
- Two-year maximum stay
- Residents share household expenses
- Residents agree to abide by House Rules
- The purpose of House Rules is to create a safe, sober, stable, structured, group living situation

# Haven House Program -- How will Haven House help the residents?

- Individual Action Plan by each resident
- Peer support and peer accountability
- Referrals to Community Services
- Communal Living
- Faith-sharing; support from churches
- Performing Household Responsibilities

# Haven House - Plan of Operation

- Careful selection of residents
- Clear, written House Rules
- Weekdays: one or both co-directors generally present
- Night-time house manager or resident house manager
- Phone number to report problems
- Cooperation with probation/parole officers

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# Haven House Rules include these subjects:

- No violation of conditions of probation/parole
- Visitor Policy: only legal relatives
- Curfew-10:00 p.m. unless staff approves exception
- Absences from Home: 48 hour unauthorized absence will lead to dismissal
- No drugs or alcohol on the property: dismissal for violating this rule.

# Will Haven House promote public safety?

## Yes.

- Persons on probation/parole can live anywhere.
- Haven House will be a safer and more structured residence than almost all other residences in Juneau.
- Juneau District Probation Office and Dept of Corrections support Haven House.

# Will Haven House decrease property values? No.

- Research shows no.
- If house is well-maintained and residents do not create disturbances, no adverse effect on property values.
- Conclusion of national studies; James Wakefield, former President of Alaska Realtors; John Shinholser, President of McShin Foundation; CBJ Assessor re multifamily project in Douglas

# Is Haven House in harmony with uses in residential districts? Yes.

- Allowed use - single family - no limit on number. Family of 13 were prior residents.
- Other allowed uses include a group home (category suspended by CBJ), day care for children or adults of 8 or less, home occupations, duplex, single family with accessory apartments in most instances

# Is Haven House in harmony with uses in residential districts? (cont'd) Yes.

- Uses allowed with conditional use permits include day care for 9- 12 children or adults; rooming, boarding houses, bed and breakfasts; nursing care, assisted living; correctional facilities
- Haven House is similar in general character to the allowed uses and certainly the conditional uses.

# Key Fact

- Women on probation/parole live in residential districts throughout Juneau.
- No dispute that nine women on probation or parole could rent or buy this property.
- It would be wrong for many reasons -- legal, policy, moral --to say that these same nine women could not live in this residence BECAUSE they want to live in this residence as part of a program to help them successfully reenter society.

# Why people support Haven House

- Dan Austin, General Manager of St. Vincent de Paul, Haven House “expresses the larger community’s commitment to our sisters in need.”
- Michael Pellerin, GHS, “one of the greatest hurdles to successful re-entry for women is an affordable home that is safe and supportive of their unique needs.”
- Ann Lockhart, Love, INC, “many single moms calling for our assistance, who desperately need the support and guidance provided by transitional housing, such as this.”

# More . . .

- ANB/ANS, “faith- based rehabilitation programs have a high rate of success.”
- Chaplain Brenda Nagunst, ACM, “We believe the successful practices of New Hope Safe Living House and [ACM] can be replicated by Haven House.”
- Carmen Gutierrez, “witnessed the reformation of a number of women who, until their participation in the Akeela House program, were not able to stay clean and sober. After time in this program, these women were sober and working.”

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# Haven House has widespread community support

- Juneau Adult Probation Office
- Juneau Reentry Coalition
- Juneau Coalition on Housing & Homelessness
- Counselors
- Love, INC
- Local churches
- Alaska Native Brotherhood/Alaska Native Sisterhood
- Alaska Correctional Ministries

# More support for Haven House from . . .

- The Glory Hole
- Gastineau Human Services
- Alaska State Legislature
- St. Vincent De Paul Society
- Former offenders
- Recovery community in Juneau
- Some residents of the Tall Timbers neighborhood

# Haven House is part of the solution

- Juneau needs a reentry home for women coming out of prison who want to change their lives.
- Haven House is patterned after successful reentry homes in Anchorage.
- Haven House will be a safe home and will be a positive addition to the neighborhood.
- Haven House is a modest step to helping Juneau become a better, safer community for all.
- For more information, call 988-7233 or email [HavenHouseJuneau@gmail.com](mailto:HavenHouseJuneau@gmail.com)



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