



For immediate release

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Contact: Meghan Moroney, Ph: 216-651-5982, ext. 226

Email: meghan@provhous.org

Safe Haven for Kids, Help for Parents Only a Phone Call Away

Cleveland, OH – As the economy continues to falter, more and more families in Greater Cleveland are struggling to pay bills, keep the heat on and feed their children - and themselves. Many are without work or hoping to hang on to the jobs that they have. The resulting stress and pressure can have many negative consequences on parents and caregivers.

It seems there is a story in the news every day about families unraveling due to crises involving house fires, drug addiction, foreclosures and mental health issues. During these trying times, it is often the youngest and most vulnerable members of the family who are impacted the most by violence, neglect or homelessness. Split-second reactions by caregivers under stress can have long-lasting effects and negative consequences on children.

Yet some crises are avoidable. There are resources available for parents and families living in crisis situations; voluntary, free support for families is available in the community. One such resource is Providence House, a free emergency shelter for children 0-5 years old who are affected by homelessness, unsafe living conditions, or have a parent confronting crises such as medical or mental health issues, substance abuse or incarceration. Many parents in these situations may fear seeking help because they believe that by asking for help, they risk losing their children to the foster care system.

Mothers and fathers can turn to Providence House for help - before crises escalate to the point where a loving parent may make decisions that may injure or harm their children. Providence House is unique in that it offers immediate shelter and loving care for babies and children without taking custody away from their parents. A brief respite combined with assistance finding supportive resources and education is sometimes all parents need to get themselves back on track and keep their children safe.

Providence House annually provides a temporary home to 200 children while supporting family preservation through crisis intervention, parent education, peer mentoring, and community linkage to critical family support services to enhance their ability to achieve personal goals for self-sufficiency, safety and stability. In 2008, 100% of program-compliant families (92% of those admitted) were reunified with their children following a placement at Providence House.

Help is only a phone call away. Knowing who to call can make all the difference for families and children living in crisis. Call Providence House: 216-651-5982, option # 7 for admission information.

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