



For immediate release

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Providence House Honored with American Jewish Committee's 2009 Isaiah Award

Cleveland, Ohio – Providence House, Ohio's first and one of the nation's longest operating crisis nurseries has been selected as the American Jewish Committee's (AJC) 2009 Isaiah Award recipient. Established in 1963, this prestigious award has recognized over 40 different Cleveland-area agencies dedicated to improving the human condition. The award annually recognizes an organization with long-standing, measurable success with a program or initiative focused on the betterment of society.

"Providence House is a remarkable organization, which provides a safe, loving environment for at-risk infants and children who have parents in crisis that are temporarily unable to care for them, but who want to keep their children and learn how to become better parents," said AJC Isaiah Award Selection Committee Chair Robert Fuerst. "AJC is honored to recognize this truly deserving recipient of the Isaiah Award."

Providence House was selected among six finalists. Past recipients include: The AIDS Task Force of Greater Cleveland, West Side Ecumenical Ministry, North Coast Community Homes and The Gathering Place.

"We are truly honored to receive this award and could not be more appreciative of the support and recognition bestowed upon us by the American Jewish Committee," said Natalie Leek-Nelson, CEO and President of Providence House. "The babies and children of Providence House have been blessed to receive support from so many members of Cleveland's Jewish community since our founding in 1981; the Isaiah Award is truly a culmination of the spirit of their personal commitment to protecting children in our community."

This prestigious award was presented at the Cleveland Chapter of the American Jewish Committee's Annual Meeting last night at Temple Emmanuel. David Bernstein, Associate Director of the Community Services Department of the AJC, was the featured keynote speaker at the event.

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Providence House is a national model in providing safe and loving care for the area's most vulnerable children: newborns through age five. More than an emergency shelter to protect against and help prevent child abuse, the organization promises to support families in crisis through innovative, intensive programs and family education. Our mission is to protect at-risk children, prevent child abuse and neglect and preserve fragile families. As a private, non-profit agency, Providence House is 98% privately funded.