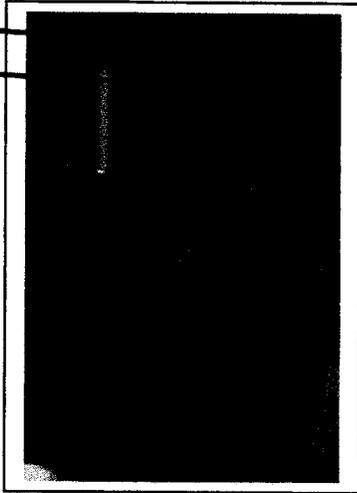


# "Harmony House"

EXHIBIT 8  
DATE 1-19-09  
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Second Chance Maternity Group Home

June of 2008, District 7 Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) opened the first Homeless Youth Transitional Living program for young homeless mothers and their children in this region of Montana. The program kicked off with participants joining immediately upon opening. The young mothers receive weekly case management. A resident/life skills manager resides on the premises to support the youth and their children with life skills training and is on call for additional support after hours when needed.



The program has served 6 young mothers and their children. The youth have participated in a nutrition education program, baby massage class and been presented with information on conflict resolution and other life skill issues. The youth have also received tax information and learned about saving for tomorrow. They have gained employment and maintained their employment for more than four months. The youth have also established daycare services and have continually met all requirements for the child care assistance program. Two of the youth with chemical dependency history have maintained their sobriety during their stay at Harmony House. One of the youth has prepared for and taken her final GED test and is now awaiting the results. Yet another youth has realized her difficulties with anger management and has begun a 13 week anger management class. All of the youth have gained new skills which are helping them become stronger parents to their children. They are learning how to self-regulate and make appropriate decisions regarding child and self care. All of the children at Harmony House have had their immunizations records updated and have met for all well-baby check ups. The children are almost one years old now and are growing and learning new skills everyday. They have begun to walk, talk and have begun to experience new foods.

An additional second chance group home is needed in the Billings area since Harmony House is the only intensive maternity group home model of its kind now. Our Community Needs Assessment conducted April, 2008, identified Transitional Housing for Youth as a Need and Teen Pregnancy as a "major problem". Community Leaders Poled reported a "huge need" for Transitional Living Programs for teen moms as well.

Further with the rising cost of rent and lack of affordable housing, which is not proportionate to the average wage in Montana, young mothers find it difficult to provide adequate housing for themselves and their child. They also struggle with finding affordable childcare as well as insufficient private and/or public transportation. Many lack the education needed to circumvent through the many agencies to acquire the necessary support and guidance which would allow them the best chance possible to achieve self sufficiency.

Harmony House receives calls asking to assist this population regularly. However, since we currently have only four beds available many are put on waiting list or referred to other agencies throughout the state. The nearest agency which could provide the same type of accommodations is over 200 miles away. Not only are these young mothers faced with the everyday uncertainty, relocation is yet another strain and adjustment they would have to contend with. The additional support would allow District 7 HRDC the ability to aid those in our immediate community without having to refer these vulnerable youth else where.

