

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rainbow Village

NORCROSS, GA, August 12, 2007/ -- Rainbow Village is a 501c3 non-profit organization based in Gwinnett County. The mission of Rainbow Village is to provide families in domestic or economic crisis a healing environment to rebuild their lives through a community-based transitional housing program.

“Rainbow Village is not an emergency housing provider,” said Deborah Pelham, Resource Development Director for Rainbow Village. “We are the next step. Families who apply for our program are ready to take the initiative and be accountable for their own future. We require that families own a car and have a job. While in our program families are required to save money for their future housing needs. Typically families are in our program for a year and up to two years.”

“We have a 95% success rate of transitioning homeless families into the mainstream community,” she continued. “Right now I am looking for corporate sponsors willing to work with us on some incentive programs which would make continued attendance in our after-school program desirable, possible, and attractive to the pre-teens and teenaged children of the families who’ve “graduated” from our housing program. In order to truly break the cycle of homelessness, poverty, and domestic violence, we have to continue working with the kids.”

Within the past few years, Rainbow Village has become accredited as a QEST (Quality Enhancement Standards), best practices organization of Georgia by the Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness. Within this same time period, Rainbow Village also hired Program Director, Lynnette Ward, a 1997 graduate of their transitional housing program. As a program participant and long-time volunteer at Rainbow Village, Lynnette has personal experience with the types of programs that are most beneficial to residents.

More recently, Rainbow Village has hired two additional employees, Deborah Pelham as Resource Development Director and Clarence Moore as Operations Manager. Both Deborah and Clarence have extensive experience in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Chris Ladson will also be joining the staff of Rainbow Village as the Children and Youth Program Director.

“Based on our strategic plan,” said Nancy Yancey, Executive Director, “right now one of the primary goals of our board of directors and our staff is to find either an existing property or to find some land to build a new complex that would serve as an all-inclusive campus so that our housing, our programming, and our offices would all be in one place.

“Every time we drive by a nice property zoned for mixed-use,” she added, “we think how wonderful a piece of property like that would be for an organization such as ours. It would be close to businesses, bus-lines, major roads, retail, manufacturing, and offices.

All of these things are important considerations for families such as ours who are struggling daily with transportation, childcare and work-related issues.”

At 6:30PM on Saturday, October 13, at the Gwinnett Place Marriott in Duluth, Rainbow Village will be hosting its annual Gala, one of two major fundraising events they sponsor each year.

“The Gala is so much fun!” said Kat Goddard, this year’s volunteer Gala committee chairperson, “the food, the music, and the dancing are all fabulous. And people really get excited about the live and silent auctions. It’s a great opportunity to get a good deal on some wonderful vacation get-aways, unique home furnishings, and one-of-a-kind packages, and of course all of the money raised goes to support Rainbow Village.”

To find out more about Rainbow Village or to purchase sponsorships and tickets for this year’s Gala: “A Masquerade - Changing the Face of Homelessness”, call 770-446-3800, go to www.rainbowvillage.org, or stop by and visit at 400 Holcomb Bridge Road, Norcross.

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