

# **FCC Congregational Meeting**

January 30, 2012

# **HIS House, 157 S. Tenth Street**

- Formerly, Salina Youth Care home
- Donated to FCC with express purpose that it remain in “Outreach”
- Took title to the home on or about June 1, 2011
- Actively sought God’s plan for HIS house throughout the summer & fall months

# Congregation Input

- Solicited Congregational input in May & June
- House was opened for touring on September 18<sup>th</sup>
- Feedback received indicated the House should be committed to counseling or in “one way or another” to housing
- Vision that resulted was that HIS House could serve a “dual role”. Main floor & second floor would be committed to housing with the basement committed to local outreach

# Due Diligence

- Identified local agencies, who are they serving, how are they serving, who do they feel may be falling through the cracks
- Avoid duplication of services & wasting resources

# Who were we in contact with

- Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas
- Pregnancy Service Center
- Ashby House
- The “City”
- Catholic Charities
- St. Francis Community Services
- TFI (The Farm Inc)
- Kansas Dep’t of Health & Education
- Toured a local shelter for boys
- Several churches tributary to 157 S. Tenth

# Possible Target Groups

- Pregnant teens
- Boys or girls maturing out of Foster Care at age 18
- Female parolees
- High school boys or girls in need of respite care

# Concerns

- Lacked the expertise to be a Foster home or Group Home
- Licensing concerns with a Foster home or respite care
- Financial demands for operating such a home if we were to go it “alone”
- Adequacy of volunteers to mentor residents, teach life skills or conduct Bible studies

# From the very beginning

- Ashby House voiced a desire to collaborate with First Covenant Church to address one of the potential targeted groups
- October 11<sup>th</sup>, we inquired of Ashby House what they were willing to do and able to do with respect to collaborating with FCC
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>, representatives of Ashby House toured the HIS House, noting only that window panes near beds needed to be addressed. Everything else was found to be satisfactory.

# Collaboration began

- 12/19 Council gives the “green light” to continue discussing the collaboration with Ashby House
- 12/26 Meeting with Bryan Anderson (Director of Ashby House) to begin work on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- 1/17 & 1/19 Working out the details of the “MOU” with Bryan Anderson
- 1/22 Council recommends sharing the progress made with the congregation on Monday, January 30th
- 1/30 Shared with congregation, the journey we’d been on and details of the Memorandum of Understanding

# Memorandum of Understanding

- Target group is females, ages 18 to 22, who are either aging out of Foster Care and/or homeless
- FCC would be responsible for providing:
  1. The house & furnishings at 157 S. Tenth
  2. Insure the house, furnishings, personal property and provide liability protection for the Church and the volunteers
  2. Payment for utilities including: electricity, gas, water/trash, cable or satellite for phone, internet & television (\$9300 estimate annually)
  3. Life skills training & necessary materials for that training
  4. Volunteers to mentor residents & lead Bible studies
  5. Spiritual counseling & an outreach of God's love
  6. Repair or replacement of mechanical items such furnace, washer, drier, air conditioner, refrigerator, television, freezer
  7. Liaison to serve as contact person with Ashby House
  8. Annual inspection of smoke & alarm system

# Ashby House Responsibilities

- Financial management of the program in accordance with standard accounting practices
- Collaborate with Foster Care agencies to obtain referrals of “potential” residents
- Conduct assessments for drug, alcohol, tobacco dependencies; screen for physical, mental & life skill needs including U.A.’s & B.A.’s
- Staffing the home 24/7 per FCC’s request
- Life skills classes around budgeting, stress & anger management, communication, goal setting & decision making
- Provide training for volunteers & mentors
- Cost of day-to-day operations including, but not limited to, food, initial basic clothing, staffing, local transportation, household supplies, personal hygiene, etc

# Ashby House Responsibilities (con't)

- Case management and referral for medication, medical, dental, education or training in pursuit of employment or career (This includes assistance in accessing financial assistance for co-pays and scholarship & grants)
- Repairing intentional damage done to the home or furnishings (such as punching a hole in wall, defacing a wall, plugging a toilet with something other than toilet tissue)
- Providing liability insurance, auto insurance, professional liability insurance (other than the home, furnishings, personal effects)
- Provide counseling for drugs and alcohol (Ashby House is a licensed provider in Kansas)

# Joint Responsibility with Ashby House

- Provide representatives for program management team
- Establish eligibility requirements for residents
- Interview & select residents
- Enforce house rules and policies established jointly by Ashby House & First Covenant Church
- Pursuit of any and all grants available for targeted group and/or transitional housing
- Meet monthly to evaluate the program and progress of the residents
- Determine when a resident is prepared to live independently, including Pre & Post assessments
- Discharge plan discussed with resident upon arrival
- Be willing to participate in community wide fund raising activities and events in support of HIS House.

# Examples of Life Skills

- Meal preparation-setting table-serving meal-cleanup
- Laundry
- Hygiene
- Nutrition
- Financial: check writing, balancing checkbook, budgeting, saving
- Employment: resume creation, job search, researching employer, interviewing
- Car maintenance: check fluids, change tire, change oil
- Home safety
- Ethics
- Etiquette

# What a ministry opportunity!

- Our vision is to change young women's lives and prepare them for independent living
- We anticipate a resident will be prepared to move to independent living within 12 to 24 months of arrival
- We anticipate a need for structured day; **NOT** going to be merely a place to eat and sleep
- We **MUST** have volunteers to mentor residents, to teach life skills, and to lead Bible studies
- We need individuals to “model” a family environment, late afternoon-early evening (five days per week)
- First Covenant Church has sole use of the basement to do outreach in the community. We welcome suggestions from the congregation as to types of outreach they would like to do.

# Please contribute to Outreach Fund

- Council shared at the May '11 congregational meeting a need to establish a \$100,000 fund for community Outreach. A **portion** of this fund would be used at the house for the following:
- We need to move the laundry from the basement to second floor, install  $\frac{3}{4}$  bath in basement & repair the shower on the main floor. \$18,000 estimate in hand.
- Finish the basement to include a room for counseling & reconfigure the second floor fire escape. \$22,000 estimate.
- Replace the kitchen cabinets and some light fixtures.
- Need a couple desk top computers for study room
- Need a television with wall mounted screen

# Summarize

- The collaboration with Ashby House and the selection of “females aging out of Foster Care” addresses 3 of our 4 concerns
- The collaboration is consistent with our Long Range Vision Plan (LRVP)
- Great opportunity to share our faith and demonstrate God’s Love