

MEDIA ADVISORY:
April 23, 2009

**Harriet Tubman Young Women's Academy Students Lead
Improvements to Elizabeth House Maternity Home**

Grant funds service project in support of students' study of teen motherhood

Portland, Ore. – Approximately 40 students and staff from the Harriet Tubman Young Women's Academy at Jefferson will culminate service learning on Global Youth Service Day, this Friday, April 24, by sprucing up Elizabeth House, a residential maternity home for young women ages 14 to 22 that is operated by Catholic Charities in Oregon.

The students, who are from the fifth period leadership class taught by Dawn Schlegel, wrote the Youth Service America grant as a class project. They are one of 100 student groups nationwide to win a \$1,000 State Farm Good Neighbor Service Learning Award – this amount was split between three separate projects, of which Elizabeth House is one.

Students will paint two resident rooms at Elizabeth House, and will build and plant a vegetable bed for the residents' use. While the grant will pay for most of the building and painting supplies, the students have also been growing some vegetable starts from seed in their science class.

The students chose to support Elizabeth House as part of a unit under the theme "voices silenced." Concurrently, their study of teen motherhood has been from the perspective of empowerment.

About Harriet Tubman Young Women's Academy at Jefferson

The Harriet Tubman Young Women's Academy at Jefferson is a college-preparatory school with a focus on preparing young women for careers in math and science. Having opened in the 2007-08 school year in Harriet Tubman Middle School, it is an academy of Jefferson High School. Its small learning environment provides students with personalized instruction and extra academic support as needed, and all programming incorporates a strong community service component. The academy also offers Saturday and summer enrichment opportunities.

About Elizabeth House

Operated by Catholic Charities in Oregon, Elizabeth House is a residential maternity home and care program for young women ages 14 to 22, who are homeless and pregnant or newly parenting. For more information, contact Catholic Charities' Pregnancy Support office at (503) 238-5196.

About Catholic Charities

Since 1933, Catholic Charities in Oregon has been bringing hope, resources and advocacy to the poorest and most vulnerable throughout the state, regardless of faith, race or condition in life. The organization serves as the professional social service

arm of the Archdiocese of Portland, yet is funded completely through grants and donations. Headquartered in Portland at 231 SE 12th Avenue, the organization will move into its new Clark Family Center upon completion in Spring 2010. For more information call (503) 231-4866, or go to www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org.

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- Who/What:** Approximately 50 students from the fifth period leadership class taught by Dawn Schlegel will culminate community service studies by heading up a project at Elizabeth House.
- Where:** Elizabeth House
- Why:** Celebrate Global Youth Service Day (April 24th) and focus on work young people are contributing, every single day.
- When:** Friday, April 24, 2009
9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- How:** Six 10th graders from the Harriet Tubman Women's Academy at Jefferson (students of Dawn Schlegel's fifth period leadership class) wrote a grant which gleaned a \$1,000 State Farm Good Neighbor Service Learning Award. This amount was split between three separate projects, of which Elizabeth House is one.
- Interview:** Dawn Schlegel, teacher of the leadership class, Harriet Tubman Young Women's Academy at Jefferson

Students from the fifth period leadership class at the Harriet Tubman Young Women's Academy at Jefferson

Annalisa Wieler, case manager for Catholic Charities' Elizabeth House
- Photos:** Students and staff of the Harriet Tubman Young Women's Academy at Jefferson

Staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities' Elizabeth House
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