



# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Friends For Life Announces Expansion of Housing Programs**

**Memphis TN, January 12, 2009** – Friends For Life will expand the Aloysius Home Housing Services division through the construction of a new housing facility, Aloysius New Beginnings. The \$1.2 million facility is planned to be built on the empty lot adjacent to the former Aloysius Home building. The 10-unit single room occupancy facility will provide permanent supportive housing to 10 chronically homeless adults living with HIV/AIDS and co-occurring disorders.

The \$1.2 million construction costs will be raised through grants submitted to federal, state and local funding entities. Friends For Life has already received notification of award from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency for a grant in the amount of \$310,300 and a \$200,000 commitment from the City of Memphis for the project. Pending notification of funding is a \$434,000 grant to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a part of the City of Memphis Continuum of Care application and a \$185,000 application to a local foundation.

Housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS has been a serious problem since the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. A 1992 report by the federal Commission on AIDS reported that at the time, one-third to one-half of all persons infected with HIV were either homeless or at imminent risk of becoming so. Unfortunately, this serious issue among persons living with the disease continues 24 years later from the beginning of the health crisis. Reports compiled by Friends For Life show that from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, 21% percent of the persons it served were identified as being without permanent housing.

To further document the need for this project, Aloysius New Beginnings was ranked as the number one priority project by the city's HUD Continuum of Care steering committee for the 2009 Continuum of Care application made by the City of Memphis to HUD. Friends For Life projects that construction will begin in the fall of 2009 with the program accepting its first residents in November 2010.

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