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**Transitioning into a new life:
providing shelter and encouragement for homeless women**
*The WHO (Women Helping Others®) Foundation awards \$16,000 to
Ruth's House of Hope*

Faribault, MN – Ruth's House of Hope provides transitional and emergency housing for homeless women and their children in Southern Minnesota. The families that enter Ruth's House have experienced a variety of circumstances that have led to their homelessness, primarily domestic violence, mental illness, chemical dependency, poverty or a combination of these factors.

Women are referred to Ruth's House from Social Services, public health nursing, law enforcement, etc. and must complete an application and interview before being accepted into the program. Upon acceptance, women find emergency and transitional housing including shelter, food and personal care items for up to 24 months. In addition to housing, support groups and community responsibilities are included in the transition process. The ultimate objective of Ruth's House of Hope is to provide the tools and services these women need so that they can work toward obtaining permanent housing; gaining financial independence; developing a sense of accountability; and healing physically, emotionally and spiritually.

"The WHO foundation grant will be a real blessing!" said Executive Director Ruth Hickey. "It will provide heat and electricity for the transitional home and provide milk for the homeless families who reside there for a whole year! Last year Ruth's House provided over 7,000 nights of safe housing and the organization anticipates a similar year in 2009."

The WHO Foundation is pleased to grant Ruth's House of Hope with a \$16,000 grant to help cover the costs of food, electricity and water for these women and children in need.

The WHO Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization that was founded in 1993 and born from the philosophy of Women Helping Others. For 15 years, WHO has been giving and making a difference by supporting community-focused charities that serve the overlooked needs of women, children and families. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$3.5 million to over 332 organizations throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

For more information, call 1-800-WHO-4-ONE (1-800-946-4663); write to P.O. Box 816029, Dallas, Texas, 75381-6029; or visit www.whofoundation.org