



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHOENIX HOUSE AWARDED \$14,669 FROM PORTAGE HEALTH FOUNDATION TO START NEW PROGRAM

[Hancock, MI] Phoenix House, a residential substance and alcohol treatment facility in Calumet, Michigan was recently awarded \$14,669.00 from the Portage Health Foundation to help implement a NEW transitional residential services program component.

Research indicates that most addicted individuals need at least 3 months in treatment to significantly reduce or stop their drug use. "The best outcomes occur with longer durations of treatment," stated Mark Maggio, Executive Director of the Phoenix House. "We believe we can increase the successful recovery of our clients by offering 30-60 days of transitional residential services."

This past year, Phoenix House served 106 residential clients. Of those, 73, or 69%, were unemployed and had no way to provide for stable housing after the completion of their initial treatment. "When a person is worried about where they are going to stay, where they are going to work, and how they are going to provide for themselves, they have difficulty focusing their efforts onto their treatment and becoming well again," added Maggio. "The new program will help relieve that burden and provide the stabilization necessary to transition individuals into outpatient services."

The Portage Health Foundation looked at a number of health assessments prior to making the recent award. "We know that alcohol and substance abuse is a critical health risk in our community," said, Kevin Store, executive Director of the Portage Health Foundation. "We also have looked at what the return on investment is for supporting substance abuse treatment services." Store was referencing data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse where studies show a 12:1 return; meaning that for every dollar invested on treatment services, you can potentially reduce future burden and associated expenses of untreated individuals by \$12.00 in health care criminal justice, and drug crime related expenses that would otherwise be paid for by the taxpayers. "Substance abuse and alcoholism is not just a health concern, it's an issue that impacts our local economy." Store added.

The new program, once started, will be sustained through fee service agreements with contracting sources.

The Portage Health Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that receives and contributes charitable donations which support the health needs of the community through enhanced philanthropy and community collaboration throughout Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties.