



Rumford Group Homes, Inc.

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Homeless Shelter in Norway Opens

Norway - Rumford Group Homes, Inc. announces the opening of the Norway Family Center on September 29, 2008. This is a 12-bed shelter that serves homeless women and children. It provides temporary assistance to pregnant/parenting mothers who are the heads of their household and their children while they seek permanent housing for their family. Serving residents of Oxford and northern Cumberland Counties, it is located in Norway.

“With the worsening of the economy and increased prices of oil, gas, food, etc. families are becoming homeless at an alarming rate” states Alan J. Monier, Executive Director of Rumford Group Homes, Inc. “The Norway Family Center provides emergency shelter and essential services to those women and children who need assistance to resolve their homeless situation” he adds.

Therese Johnson, L.M.S.W., Director of Homeless Services, states “The Norway Family Center is a valuable resource for our community. Serving all of Oxford county, it allows families to remain in their community where they have support of family and friends while allowing children to attend school locally.”

Rumford Group Homes, Inc. purchased the shelter from the Galilee House last year because it was closing. Renamed to the Norway Family Center, the building has undergone a substantial transformation to ensure its on-going safety and long term viability. This includes major renovations including replacing all the windows with Energy Star Vinyl Replacement windows, painting, replacing carpet, refinishing the floors, repairing the fire sprinkler system and purchasing new furnishings.

Susan Gillis has been hired as the live-in House Manager. In this role, she provides support and assistance to shelter guests with day-to-day issues. Shelter guests work with a case manager who helps each family to develop a self-sufficiency plan. This plan helps guests resolve the issues that led to homelessness, assists them in locating safe and affordable housing and securing a steady income. Services are provided free of charge and the average stay is approximately 4-6 weeks.

Now ready for occupancy, referrals are being accepted. Referrals come from social service agencies, the faith based community, schools, concerned individuals and those who need services. If you know of someone who is homeless and needs shelter services, please call Therese Johnson at 743-6702.

There will be an open house for the Norway Family Center on October 29, 2008 from 3:00 pm-6:00 pm. The public is invited to attend. Please call 364-3551 to receive an invitation.

Rumford Group Homes, Inc. is a nationally accredited (Council of Accreditation [COA]) non-profit social service agency. Since 1974, Rumford Group Homes Inc. has served abused, neglected, and homeless youth and their families from throughout the state of Maine with an emphasis on the tri-county region of Oxford, Androscoggin, and Franklin Counties. The agency provides a variety of supportive services through our residential treatment programs, crisis program, housing and case management programs, homeless youth outreach services, homeless shelters, and low-income housing to children, adolescents, young adults and families in need of treatment, housing, or support due to abuse, neglect, family crisis or abandonment. For more information, please call 364-3551.

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