

The Haven House Update

May 27, 2008

The Haven House is currently the only temporary emergency shelter and a soup kitchen to people of need in the Dawson County area which is currently administered by Community Services, Inc. For over 15 years The Haven House has addressed the needs of those who are in transition to our community at a minimal cost. Community Services, Inc. serves as an umbrella for several charitable and educational needs of Lexington area by referrals from throughout the county for temporary shelter and the soup kitchen.

Unfortunately the needs of The Haven House are real and now. The rising costs of operating such a shelter in recent years have not kept pace with the rising costs of its operation and maintenance. Today, as chairman of CSI, I am here to review the City Council's three-year request commitment for The Haven House regarding the third and final request of \$5,000.00.

The Haven House objectives:

- provide a temporary shelter and soup kitchen for needy in Lexington
- serve as advocate and information clearing house for homeless with other local service agencies with their quest to be become self-sufficient
- inform the public and policy makers on needs of clients and mission of Haven House

The CSI board continually reviews the needs of The Haven House and the needs of local support to provide this service. The Haven House is a valuable asset to the Lexington as it continually seeks the support of other service agencies and faith based organizations but unfortunately it has not kept pace with the its needs. It has been said that a good test of a community's strength is how they treat the less fortunate among them.

The Haven House has a capacity of 20 separate men's and women's rooms, laundry facilities for residents and the soup kitchen. The facility is open 24/7 all year long and staffed by three individuals that provided two hot meals per day. In 2007, services were utilized by 230 individuals, 10,869 meals and a client's average length of stay is 10 days.

CSI board appreciates the enormous support shown by City Council for the past three years and the realization that The Haven House has an important mission in Lexington. This \$30,000.00 and the remaining \$5,000 have been and will be wisely utilized.

Respectively submitted,

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