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## **REQUEST FOR MEDIA**

### **LEADERS TO BE IN FULL FORCE FOR HOMELESS YOUTH CENTER RENAMING CEREMONY ON OCTOBER 8**

*Mayor Oscar B. Goodman and Other Noteworthy Leaders Will Show Support for Dedication Ceremony to be Held at the HELP of Southern Nevada Shannon West Youth Center*

**Las Vegas, Nevada** (October 7, 2010) – HELP of Southern Nevada, celebrating 40 years of serving Southern Nevada will hold a dedication and renaming ceremony Friday, October 8 from 9am – 11am at the HELP of Southern Nevada Shannon West Homeless Youth Center, located at 1417 North Las Vegas Boulevard (corner of N. LV Blvd and Foremaster). HELP of Southern Nevada began managing and operating the Youth Center (formerly the Center for Independent Living) in April of 2008. October 8<sup>th</sup> HELP will officially hold a dedication and renaming ceremony in honor of Shannon West a community leader who has been instrumental in the regional approach to end homelessness in Southern Nevada.

Terrie D’Antonio, President and CEO of HELP of Southern Nevada said “if it weren’t for the efforts of Shannon West and her commitment to drive change and collaboration amongst the cross-sectors of our community we would not have achieved the results that are prevalent today.” D’Antonio goes on to say “Shannon West is an example of how one individual can make a difference.”

Speakers at the dedication and renaming ceremony include: Mayor Oscar B. Goodman, Commissioner Lawrence Weekly, Professor and Director of Social Work at San Diego State, Executive Director of Harrah’s Foundation and former Clark County manager Dr. Thom Reilly, former assistant manager of Clark County and currently the Dallas County commissioners court administrator Darryl Martin, Shannon West the SNRPC Regional Homeless Coordinator and honoree, Cedrick Dale a resident from the Youth Center, Terrie D’Antonio CEO of HELP and the Board of Trustees chairperson Ruth Urbantke.

**WHAT:** Dedication and Renaming Ceremony for the HELP of Southern Nevada Shannon West Homeless Youth Center.

**WHO:** Community Leaders, Elected Officials and HELP celebrate the dedication and honor Shannon West.

**WHERE:** The Shannon West Homeless Youth Center located at 1417 N. Las Vegas Boulevard. Media parking is in the Thomas and Jones Funeral Home parking lot next door to the Youth Center off of Foremaster, between Main and N. Las Vegas Boulevard.

**WHEN:** Friday morning, October 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am. Open house, breakfast and tours by the Youth residents from 9am – 10am. 10am the program and speakers begin.

#### **About Shannon West**

Shannon E. West is the Regional Homeless Services Coordinator working under the direction of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition’s Committee on Homelessness. Her responsibilities include furthering the implementation of Help Hope Home: Southern Nevada’s Regional Plan to End Homelessness. Her duties include: planning and evaluating the overall effort; managing the Inclement Weather Shelter program and various pilot projects, implementing and maintaining Homeless Management Information System; overseeing



the HUD Continuum of Care process; conducting homeless/shelter counts and various research projects; and, mobilizing the community to respond to the issue of homelessness.

She also serves as coordinator to the SNRPC Committee on Youth, where her responsibilities have included advancing the Ready for Life initiative which emphasizes engaging disconnected youth to school or work by the age of 25; convening stakeholders from different service delivery systems for greater collaboration; and overseeing the Ready for Life Business Case and Community Implementation Plan. She also convened the Southern Nevada Regional Funders Forum, which brings government, foundation, and corporate funders together to discuss and implement strategic and unified methods in allocating funding.

Previously, West served as Assistant Director with Clark County Department of Parks & Community Services. During her tenure, she was responsible for many unique functions in a department dedicated to community safety, community building and community wellness in Southern Nevada. These functions included: Animal Control, Neighborhood Justice Center, Public Response Office, Senior Advocate Program, Neighborhood Services, Gang Intervention Unit, Park Police, Museums, Galleries, Special Events, cultural centers and other community outreach services.

Her other experience with Clark County includes managing the Neighborhood Justice Center (a community mediation center) and the Child Care Licensing Unit, as well as working as a grass roots trainer in an anti-violence initiative. Her previous work experience includes adolescent residential substance abuse treatment and working with runaway and homeless youth.

Shannon has helped to establish several community programs and initiatives in Southern Nevada including the Southern Nevada Gang Task Force, the Clark County Neighborhood Services Unit, the Ready for Life Collaborative (focusing on transitioning youth and young adults), and Camp AnyTown. Shannon has been recognized nationally and locally for efforts. Most recently a Southern Nevada youth shelter, where Shannon worked early in her career, was renamed the Shannon West Homeless Youth Shelter.

She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from the Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She is engaged to be married in December.

#### **About HELP of Southern Nevada**

HELP of Southern Nevada assists over 100,000 low-income families and individuals to become more self-sufficient through direct services, trainings and referrals. Programs available; social services, weatherization, community alternative sentencing, work opportunities readiness center, holiday assistance, Nevada 2-1-1 call center and homeless and youth services. For more information, call HELP of Southern Nevada at 702-369-4357 or visit [www.helpsonv.org](http://www.helpsonv.org).

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