



YOUTH SERVICES

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Nicole Garroutte

ngarroutte@larkinstreetyouth.org

(415) 673.0911 ext. 305

Larkin Street Youth Services Raises \$3.7 Million for Underage Homeless Youth

Diamond Youth Shelter Capital Campaign Resources Will Fund a Better Home for Teens

SAN FRANCISCO—Nov. 12, 2008—Larkin Street Youth Services, San Francisco's leading provider of housing and support services for homeless and at-risk youth ages 12 to 24, launched today the reconstruction of its Diamond Youth Shelter in an effort to offer vulnerable teens an improved living space and better services at the facility. Larkin Street will host a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 4 p.m. at the building site located at 536 Central Ave. between Hayes and Grove Sts. in San Francisco.

The Diamond Youth Shelter renovation was made possible by the organization's Capital Campaign fund-raising drive which raised a total of \$3.7 million through a diverse set of funding sources including, private, public and board resources as well as government loans.

Diamond Youth Shelter Capital Campaign funds will be used to make much-needed fire-code and seismic upgrades along with creating a more welcoming atmosphere for youth—ages 12 to 17—who are in need of emergency short-term housing. Originally built as a laundry center in 1905 and converted to a shelter in 1985, the existing Diamond Youth Shelter facility will be replaced with a new, three-story, energy-efficient 4,630 square feet structure versus its current 2,192 square feet. The building was designed by award-winning Bay Area architect and homeless housing advocate Sam Davis. Davis is the interim dean of the College of Environmental Design, professor emeritus of Architecture, and a professor of the Graduate School at the University of California, Berkeley.

Diamond Youth Shelter will continue to house 125 youth yearly and up to 20 nightly near Golden Gate Park's panhandle. Improved features of the newly transformed dwelling will include:

- Five bedrooms
- Improved study areas
- Private counseling spaces
- Modern kitchen and common areas
- Greater seismic safety
- Handicap accessibility
- Sustainable materials and energy-efficient elements

"The new Diamond Youth Shelter will provide a more inspirational, home-like atmosphere for our kids, many of whom are survivors of abuse, neglect and exploitation," said Sherilyn Adams, Larkin Street's executive director. "Our successful completion of the Diamond Youth Shelter Capital Campaign has given us the financial means to ensure that underage, at-risk youth in San Francisco have a supportive dwelling to live in while they stabilize their lives, nurture their incredible resilience and build their self-esteem. The changes taking place will show them that they are valued from the moment they walk through the door."

During the Diamond Youth Shelter renovation process, youth will be housed temporarily at Larkin Street's transitional living program, G-House. Construction on the Diamond Youth Shelter is expected to be complete in late 2009.

About Larkin Street Youth Services

Founded in 1984, Larkin Street Youth Services is a globally recognized nonprofit leader providing innovative and effective housing, medical, social and educational services for at-risk homeless and runaway youth ages 12-24 across 25 programs and 13 sites in San Francisco. Seventy-four percent of youth who participate in the full continuum of services at Larkin Street exit street life. For more information, please visit www.larkinstreetyouth.org.

###