



Bonnie Johnson, program director for House of Light with Jeri Hendricks, director in the kitchen-dining area. PHOTO BY JEFFIE SLAUGHTER

said, "We'll have a giant bazaar."

According to Hendricks, the facility has \$20,000 in escrow, with another \$60,000 needed by September. She said the assessed tax value of the 97,000 square foot facility is \$1.2 million. "The land itself is worth that," she commented.

The new budget proposes a \$1.4 million purchase price, with a \$1.8 million projected remodeling cost. Hendricks said no remodeling is planned "for at least a year."

At the time of their resignation, the board calculated that even when fully reimbursed at full capacity, HOL would run a monthly deficit of \$32,000. Hendricks' figures paint a different picture. Monthly operating costs will total \$34,000, according to Hendricks. At full capacity, resident fees would total \$27,000. A sublease for facilities used by Rosemont School would bring in \$9,141 per month. Donations of \$2,500 would bring monthly revenue to a total of \$38,641.

Johnson said the figures do not include another \$20,000 per month "when we get our agency license for foster care." The facility would have to undergo remodeling and a Children's Services Division licensing process to receive authorization to accept children with AIDS.

According to Hendricks, "Our focus right now is adults with AIDS. Period."

Hendricks' monthly revenue figures do not include any money from Medicaid, Johnson said. HOL is licensed by the State Senior and Disabled Services Division, but HOL must negotiate a separate contract to receive Medicaid money. A great percentage of persons with AIDS (PWAs) rely on Medicaid in the later stages of their illness. Critics question how many PWAs can afford the \$1,800 per month resident fee.

Cindy Hannum, division manager of client care said, "HOL does not have a Medicaid contract, and has not approached the division for a contract." HOL received their license from the division June 1. According to Hannum, "The license was issued based on administrative rules governing physical and structural compliance and overall administration. The division would be concerned if HOL does not have operating funds."

She stressed that HOL's "capacity to give

care is critical." The agency "will review HOL's capacity to give care," she said.

Joanne Kraft, Portland stockbroker and former board member, remarked, "Jeri's right. They are 'scary dollars,' but not because of the amount. Our greatest fear was that even one PWA would come into HOL, and if we couldn't find those 'scary dollars,' that person would be out on the streets again."

At the time of their resignation, the board expressed concern that HOL had no resources for long term funding. Kraft explained, "We asked Jeri Hendricks for further information on financial resources before we made a final decision. She had no other resource available to cover that monthly deficit."

"The board asked her specifically if those numbers made financial sense. She said no. We followed up by asking if she had other resources to cover the monthly operating deficit. Again the answer was no."

When questioned about committed and verifiable grants or donations, Hendricks and Johnson replied, "Outreach has resubmitted for \$240,000 for education start-up and acquisition." They declined naming which funding organizations they had approached. Johnson acknowledged that none of the \$240,000 was as yet committed.

Despite her detractors, Hendricks' goal is to "be self-sufficient" in three to five years. "I'd love to have a sliding scale," she said.

At press time, one resident had lived at HOL for the three weeks before his death. Four others were being screened for eligibility.

Hendricks speaks proudly of the quilts made and donated by the Northwest Quilting Association. The Quilt Project sews all their blocks in HOL's basement. Volunteers, she said, have made the HOL dream possible. She attends neighborhood association meetings and her north Portland neighbors seem open and supportive of the facility. The House of Light dream, however, depends upon dollars.

"Jeri said people would financially support HOL when it opened," Kraft observed. "All of the networking I've done shows that people are unwilling to donate. The most important job of a board is to direct the directors. The board was responsible."

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