

# Safe home for women may close from lack of funding

## Majority of clients are Native American

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

A resource for local women may soon be forced to close if additional funding isn't acquired.

According to Annette Fleshman, of the Madras Area Community Action Team, a transitional home for women is in danger of shutting down if they don't find additional funding—and soon.

In the past the home has been run by donations and grants. However, she said, as grant money has run out they haven't been able to find as many opportunities for additional funding.

"We haven't had any opportunities for more grants recently," Fleshman explained. Without more funding, they face problems in running the home, she said.

It originally opened two and a half years ago, Fleshman said, and has been filled steadily ever since. "In the past year it's been full and I had to actually turn women away," Fleshman said. Currently there are spaces available in the home, however.

As for the women who go through the home, Fleshman said, many of them go on to succeed in life. "There's been some successes and of course there's been some that haven't," Fleshman said.

Amanda Tanner has been living in the transitional home since November—and said she knows first-hand what it is like to not have anywhere to go.

"I'm here for a probation violation," she said, after having problems with drugs. But with the help of the staff at the Willow Creek Transitional

Home Tanner has turned her life around. She said, "The house has helped me out a lot. It's my safety zone right now."

"It's a real good place to live," Tanner added. "It's put a lot of perspective in my life."

Now Tanner has found a job at a local fast food restaurant and said, "I'm doing a lot better than what I used to. It's the best thing that's happened to me in a long time."

If the home were to close, Tanner said, "I would probably be crying because I don't have anywhere to go right now." But more importantly, she said, it would have a significantly negative impact on the community.

In Tanner's opinion, "The women really need it."

Mark Matthews, director of Victims of Crime Services in Warm Springs, said the transitional home is a worthwhile resource. In his opinion, "The Willow Creek Transitional Home is a good resource and we've referred people there in the past."

For Warm Springs especially, Matthews said, "I think there's a need in the community for people who are in situations where they're trying to get away from bad things—whether it is domestic violence, sexual assault, substance and alcohol abuse."

In the community, Matthews added, there is often a long waiting list for housing. According to Matthews, "There is a big need in the Warm Springs community for safe and adequate housing"

The transitional home provides that type of housing for single women without children.

Fleshman said a large majority of the home's tenants have been from the Warm Springs community or are Native American.

"I would bet close to two-

thirds of our clients have been Native American," she said.

Up to five women are able to live in the house at one time, along with a permanent resident manager.

Fleshman describes the home as one for women who are, in general, "down on luck." While it is a resource for those with drug and alcohol issues or for women who are leaving incarceration, she said, it is also for women who just need a stepping-stone in life.

The women must stay at the home for at least six months.

In addition, Fleshman said, they are able to refer women to local agencies who can help them get back on their feet.

When the home first opened, Fleshman said, they had a large amount of community support.

"It's just a need that we saw in the community," she added.

Without the home, Fleshman is sure there will be a negative impact.

For the women that need to use the transitional home, Fleshman said, their resources would be severely limited without it.

"I know a lot of them would have to go back to the lifestyle they were in," she explained.

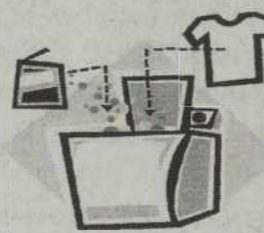
The Madras Area Community Action Team focuses on solving the problem of poverty, Fleshman said, and housing is included in that.

Fleshman also encourages community members to participate in the Madras Area Community Action Team.

"We do have an active board, but we could use more members on our board," she said.

This April, Fleshman added, the Madras Area Community Action Team will be hosting a fundraising yard sale and donations are appreciated.

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The Chronic Pain Support Group meets from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. on the third

Wednesdays of each month in the atrium of the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center.

Program topics for upcoming gatherings are:

March 21: Herbal medications, presented by Ruth Trout.

April 18: Love, intimacy and pain, presented by Bob Kronkyte.

May 16: The gift of pain, presented by Dr. Thomas

Creelman.

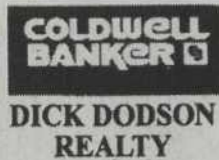
There will be potluck dinners at each meeting. Please bring food to share.

Questions? Contact Mitzie Allen, Linda Schrand, Joy Ramirez, Sharon Katchia or Jodi Flickett at 553-1196; or community members Martha Winishut or Elton Greeley.



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Warm Springs support groups/AA/NA meetings are at the following times on these days of the week:

**Monday** from 5:30 to 7 p.m.: Aftercare support group meeting at the Community Counseling Center.

**Wednesday** from noon to 1:30 p.m.: AA meeting at the Com-

munity Counseling Center.

**Wednesday** from 5:30 to 7 p.m.: AA/NA meeting at the Community Counseling Center.

**Thursday** from 6 to 7 p.m.: Talking Circle at the Community Counseling Center.

**Saturday** from 5:30 to 7 p.m.: AA/NA meeting at the Community Counseling Center.

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