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TAZEWELL COUNTY APPROVES PROPERTY PURCHASE FOR WOMEN'S RECOVERY FACILITY

Hope and Future to Operate Residential Recovery Program

Tazewell, Virginia – At their October meeting the Board of Supervisors approved purchasing property for a residential rehabilitation facility for women recovering from opioid addiction. In 2016, the Board joined many other localities around the nation in a suit against manufacturers and distributors of opioids alleging they contributed to the opioid abuse epidemic in the 1990s. Multiple settlements over the past decade resulted in a distribution of nearly \$2 million from the Commonwealth to Tazewell County.

The funds may only be used to help prevent and treat opioid addiction. In 2022, the Board appointed a committee to advise the Board on how to best use the funds. The committee identified the lack of residential facilities for recovery treatment as the top priority for use of the funds. In 2023, the Board solicited proposals from organizations to operate a residential facility in Tazewell County. Fairview Housing and Hope and Future responded. After several years of negotiations and searching for the appropriate location, the Board approved using settlement funds to acquire a property for Hope and Future to carry out their recovery program for women.

Founders Corey Sparks and Jill Howell remarked “We are incredibly grateful and excited to see this vision becoming a reality. This will be more than just a house—it will be a home. A place where women struggling with addiction can feel loved, valued and supported as they find healing, restoration and freedom.”

Our heart is to help women know that their past does not define their future and that there is hope, purpose and a new life waiting for them. We are so thankful to Tazewell County for believing in this mission and helping us create a place where women can truly find hope and a future.”

Shanna Plaster, Northwestern District Supervisor said “Every day we all see the terrible toll opioid abuse has taken on our people, especially our children. No amount of money can restore the damage the opioid epidemic did to our communities. But this is a great start. We are glad to support a program that will help women recover their lives after becoming addicted.”

The Board continues to negotiate with Fairview Housing and search for an appropriate location for housing to serve men recovering from opioid addiction.

Board Chairman, Chuck Presley, said “We are glad to begin putting these settlement funds to use. It takes some time to find just the right spot. We found a great location for Hope and Future and hope to locate Fairview Housing in the next few months.”

The Board will purchase the property and lease it to Hope and Future. The Board also has approved Opioid settlement funds for programs with Workforce Development, Communities in Schools, Tazewell County Recovery Court and the SECOR program.