



NEWS RELEASE

First Step of Sarasota Receives Wonderful Support from the Community through Generous Grants

SARASOTA, Florida – April 12, 2007 – First Step of Sarasota, the regional leader in alcohol and drug addiction recovery programs is pleased to announce that it has received a grant from The Virginia White Clark Fund of the Bank of America Client Foundation for purchase of a new 12-passenger van. The van will be used to transport clients in First Step’s residential programs to and from medical appointments, court appearances and other group outings.

First Step of Sarasota was also just awarded a Jerome and Mildred Paddock Foundation grant to use for the “Get Connected” program. Get Connected is a three-session program for older adults. It is designed to strengthen healthy behaviors, develop problem solving skills and help manage difficult situations. Topics include identifying areas of risk and assets, medication misuse and the importance of rituals and feelings. The program will also discuss the negative impact that alcohol has on individuals as they age and how it interacts with prescription medications.

First Step of Sarasota is pleased to announce that it also received grants from the following organizations: Harold C. and Jacqueline F. Bladel Foundation, Designing Women Grant Program, Mildred and Bernard Doyle Charitable Trust, GTR Foundation, Annette J. Hagens Memorial Foundation Trust and the Eluned and Edward Russell Charitable Foundation. In addition, the agency was awarded a State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program grant from the Sarasota Office of Housing and Community Development.

These grants total over \$400,000 for First Step. They will be used for a variety of projects that include youth outpatient treatment scholarships, a youth prevention program and for sober housing just to name a few.

For more information about First Step of Sarasota, or to arrange an interview contact Angela Massaro-Fain at 941-351-0024 or email amassaro-fain@grapeinc.com. Grapevine Communications is an award-winning advertising, marketing, and public relations firm based in Sarasota and serving clients nationwide.

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