



NEWS RELEASE

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First Step of Sarasota Receives Grant for Youth Outpatient Program

SARASOTA, FL – January 27, 2009 – First Step of Sarasota recently received three grants to support its Youth Outpatient program, which serves adolescents ages 13-18 with a substance abuse problem.

The grants were awarded by the Harold C. and Jacqueline F. Bladel Foundation, the Annette J. Hagens Memorial Foundation and the Evalyn Sadlier Jones Foundation.

Funds from these grants will allow First Step to offer scholarships to teens who may not otherwise be able to pay for treatment. "With families' finances being stretched by the economy, they will go a long way with helping young people get the treatment they need," said P.J. Brooks, First Step's Vice President of Outpatient Services. He added, "we are grateful to the foundations for their generous support".

Last year, First Step served more than 12,000 clients, both adolescents and adults, in its residential and outpatient programs. For more information about First Step or the Youth Outpatient program, please call 941-366-5333.

First Step of Sarasota has provided high-quality, affordable substance abuse treatment and recovery programs on Florida's Gulf Coast for more than 40 years. Last year, more than 15,000 individuals were served through the agency's prevention and treatment programs.

For more information about First Step of Sarasota, or to arrange an interview, contact Grapevine Communications at 941-351-0024 or email amassarofain@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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