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First Step of Sarasota's Crossroads Program Receives Best Practices Award

SARASOTA, FL – July 21, 2009 – First Step of Sarasota was recently recognized by the Florida Drug and Alcohol Association (FADAA) and the Department of Children and Families in the 2009 Substance Abuse Services Best Practices Awards.

Crossroads, First Step's long-term court-ordered residential treatment program for women, took second place honors in the category of Treatment Programs. Each year since 2001, a panel of experts with experience in delivery, administration, research and evaluation of substance abuse programs reviews applications on criteria such as program organization and operation, outcomes, and program rationale. This is the third First Step program to receive Best Practices honors.

The Crossroads program was created to meet the need for substance abuse treatment for women involved in the criminal justice system. Since 2003, the program has treated 145 women. Casey Collier, Program Director, stated that she is proud that First Step is receiving the award. She also noted that in 2008, "Crossroads had the highest completion rate of any Department of Corrections substance abuse program in the state, which is not an easy task."

"By providing court-ordered residential treatment to non-violent clients, Crossroads, and programs like it, increase public safety, decrease recidivism and reduce substance abuse in the communities they serve," said Robert Piper, Vice-President of First Step's Residential Services.

First Step of Sarasota, Inc., the region's leading provider of substance abuse treatment and prevention programs served nearly 14,000 individuals with its prevention and treatment programs last year. For more information, please visit www.fsos.org.

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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