



NEWS RELEASE

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Sarasota's Young Professionals Group Makes a Difference at First Step of Sarasota, Inc.

SARASOTA, FL – August 20, 2009 – Armed with paint rollers and brushes, a group of fifteen Young Professionals Group (YPG) Volunteer Committee members appeared at First Step's Choices building for a morning of painting. While there, volunteers painted five rooms, including group and social areas, the library, kitchen and foyer. The event was organized by Brittany Guido, a First Step employee and YPG member, and her husband Evan, who sits on the YPG Board of Directors.

Choices Program is a residential treatment facility for men with substance abuse issues. Clients live at the facility and receive treatment for their addictions and after a period of two months, begin re-integrating into the community by looking for employment. Those without a high school diploma also receive GED tutoring.

Choices Program Supervisor Courtney Seymour stated, "It is wonderful that the Young Professionals Group has chosen First Step's Choices Program for their painting service project. The Choices clients will now have a fresh and updated setting for treatment, which allows them to take pride in their "house" and focus on their recovery. With this event, YPG is making a difference in the lives of many clients, and First Step is honored to partner with YPG in this capacity."

First Step of Sarasota is the region's leading provider of non-profit substance abuse prevention and recovery programs. With offices in Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto Counties, First Step treated nearly 14,000 individuals last year with its prevention, Detox, residential and outpatient programs.

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