



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MAKEOVER WILL HELP TURN TACOMA'S NEW PHOEBE HOUSE INTO HOME**

*A local not-for-profit will get a much-needed "Extreme Makeover" by some 60 Windermere agents and staff this Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.*

TACOMA, Wash. (June 19, 2008) - With school out for summer and the weather getting warmer, many of us have put together a list of home improvement projects we'd like to tackle. This summer, Tacoma's New Phoebe House Association (NPHA), a not-for-profit which provides housing, services and support to Pierce County mothers and their pre-school children impacted by substance abuse, will also receive a major makeover, to the delight of the women and young children who call this three-story Victorian house near Downtown Tacoma home.

For each of the past 23 years, Windermere Real Estate agents, managers, owners and staff from more than 350 offices across the Western United States have gathered together to spend a special workday volunteering on a local service project.

For this year's Community Service Day, scheduled for Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Windermere Pacific Commons and Windermere-Puyallup/Canyon Road offices have chosen to work its magic on New Phoebe House. Led by Joe Maxwell, owner and Designated Broker, about 60 associates from both offices will be updating and beautifying this majestic but slightly faded Victorian in the Martin Luther King Business District, including repainting much of its interior, pruning back trees from windows to allow light in, and re-carpeting the women's and children's bedrooms.

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Windermere is receiving assistance from two other Tacoma companies: Gary Johnson Floor Covering, which is donating the carpet, and the Tacoma office of Continental Van, which will provide packing materials for residents so that their belongings can be stored until the makeover magic is complete. Tapestry Covenant Church will also help out by providing parking spaces for the 60-some Windermere associates who will descend on New Phoebe House this Friday.

The transformation of New Phoebe House started earlier this year when SD Deacon, a Seattle-based construction company, painted the entire first floor of the house and NW Furniture Bank donated some beds and entry-way and living room furniture. This Friday, the rest of the House's makeover will be largely completed by Windermere associates.

"The New Phoebe House provides shelter, clothing, meals and individual counseling for up to 16 Pierce County women and 10 children at a time," said Eileen Armstrong, NPHA Executive Director. "These women have had their lives – and the lives of their family and friends – disordered by substance abuse, primarily methamphetamine, and this makeover will really make a difference to the quality of life in the house."

A unique program that allows the women to live in the house with their pre-school children for up to two years, New Phoebe House provides time to heal and learn positive behavior patterns through specialized classes and services offered on site and through partner agencies. New Phoebe House women are taught a variety of skills, such as financial literacy, how to cook healthy meals and become a better parent, to help them achieve and maintain reunification with their children, and to promote self-sufficiency and clean-and-sober living.

New Phoebe's House's mission touched hearts at the Windermere Pacific Commons and Windermere-Puyallup offices, both owned by Joe Maxwell, whose typical style is to help out his community quietly and with little fanfare. Windermere agents and staff are aware of the tremendous need to build community and help it fight the impact of substance abuse, particularly methamphetamine abuse, in our South Sound area.

As Robin Austin-Parsons, an agent in the Windermere-Puyallup office put it, "I was born at Tacoma General. My grandfather lived and owned several homes just around the corner from New Phoebe House, and my mother graduated from Stadium High School. Not only is Tacoma my roots, but our family, like many others, has been affected by chemical dependency. It means a lot to me personally to help support the New Phoebe House."

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Of Windermere's generosity, NPHA Board President Jim Price said: "Friday will be an incredibly busy but fun day. Windermere's efforts will result in renewed pride and energy for the residents, staff and volunteers at New Phoebe House. We can't thank these folks enough for their heart and sense of community spirit. After such a financially challenging year, this will be quite a boost for our women and program.

New Phoebe House will be showing off its makeover at an Open House later this summer. "We hope our many Tacoma and Pierce County supporters as well as our neighbors will visit New Phoebe House and see what has been accomplished by our community sponsors," Price added.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities at New Phoebe House, please call Case Manager Gayle Elliott at 253-208-2454 or visit [www.newphoebehouse.org](http://www.newphoebehouse.org).

**ABOUT THE NEW PHOEBE HOUSE:** New Phoebe House Association is a Tacoma not-for-profit that shelters women with pre-school children in a three-story Victorian house and provides them with services and programs to achieve and maintain healthy reunification with their children as well as self-sufficiency and clean-and-sober living following substance (primarily methamphetamine) abuse. In 2007, NPHA served 43 Pierce County women, which positively affected the lives of over 100 children, many hundreds of parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends, and countless others throughout our community. NPHA depends on public charitable support for its continued operations.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** For more quotes, before and after photos, further information about NPHA, Windermere, Gary Johnson Floor Coverings and Continental Van, and/or a tour of New Phoebe House, please contact NPHA Board Secretary Eschelle English (contact information provided above).

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