



**City Rescue Mission
800 West California Ave
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106**

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
LOCAL NEWS**

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Women of Oklahoma City raise over \$88,000 towards the expansion of the women and families shelter at City Rescue Mission

Oklahoma City— Over 350 women attended the ninth annual *Hearts of Hope Benefit Tea Luncheon* at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club, Tuesday, February 12, 2008, to raise money for City Rescue Mission's women and families emergency shelter. Over \$88,000 was raised the day of the event toward the *Hearts of Hope Campaign* goal of \$83,000!

These funds make possible the renovation and expansion of the women and families emergency shelter. The project will provide an additional 20 beds for families, a new shower and bathroom area for families, and a separate day room for single women

"Many come to City Rescue Mission seeking temporary shelter. They come thinking, 'I'll stay for a few days until I figure things out.' For some, that's exactly what they need—a place to rest. Regardless the reason, our staff and volunteers surround them with love and support, giving God time to speak to their hearts," said Rev. Tom Jones, City Rescue Mission president and CEO. "At that critical point, their broken, hurting souls see the possibility of a new life; a life without addiction and poverty."

Guests at the tea heard one such testimony of a mother, once struggling with addiction, now transformed into a successful college graduate and responsible mother of four. "I did it for my kids," Kristi Davis said. "I love them so much and didn't want to lose them because of my lifestyle."

In addition to adding new beds and day room facilities, the expansion project includes the construction of a separate entrance for women and families, as well as the installation of six additional security cameras. "These structural and security changes address our primary concern, the safety and well-being of everyone in our shelter," said Jones.

In nine years, *Hearts of Hope Benefit Tea and Luncheon* attendees have raised over \$381,000 to fund projects benefiting homeless women and children at City Rescue Mission.

"The generosity of the women who attend this event is an amazing example of compassion for the underprivileged in our community," said Barbara Green, *Hearts of Hope Benefit Tea and Luncheon* founder and co-chair of this year's event. "In the past, this event has funded the renovation of the women's day room, a playground and recreation area, a life-skills learning center, and other Christ-centered services for homeless women and their children."

For information regarding how you can participate in the women and families shelter expansion project at City Rescue Mission, please contact Sue Lampton, vice president of development, at (405) 232-2709 ext. 114.

(See photos next page.)

Founded in 1960, City Rescue Mission provides help, hope and healing to the homeless of central Oklahoma. Emergency shelter, meals, case management, spiritual enrichment, dental and medical services, educational services, counseling, and rehabilitation activities are delivered to nearly 500 men, women, and children every night.

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*Bridge to Life client, Kristi Davis (center)
chats with Mission staff at **Hearts of Hope Benefit Tea.***



Hearts of Hope Benefit Tea attendees Nicole Crain and Georgia Stevens