

**My Friends Place has entered into a partnership with the Safe Harbor Crisis Nursery in Kennewick, in order to use a portion of the building at 1111 No. Grant Place as a licensed, emergency overnight youth shelter. The purpose is to legally shelter some of the several hundreds of homeless teens in our community who currently have no such available alternative, to provide them with information on available services, and to provide training & reconciliation services for their families. If space permits, any teen who qualifies will be admitted on a first-come, first served basis. Somerset Counseling Center (see below) has agreed to provide assessments, education and referrals to the youth that utilize *My Friend's Place Shelter*.**

**At present, we intend to permit only unemployed or partially employed teens, ages 13-17 only, to spend the night, provided they are not evidencing obvious drug or alcohol use at the time they present for admission, consent to the required parental notification under RCW 13.32A.082, and are not subject to any outstanding arrest warrants or listed with law enforcement as a runaway. If demand exceeds the available spaces, we will have a screening process that will allow priorities first to those evidencing unsafe living circumstances; next would be homeless teenage girls. The next priority would be determined based on evident need, whether other alternatives available, etc. At each level, the admission process will also evaluate prospects for meaningful reconciliation between the teen and the family and accord priority to those showing willingness to explore these options. We will have a case manager on site to make the initial screening decision, and teens seeking admission must present during normal business hours, absent an exception authorized by the director.**

**Teens would be required to leave the facility during the day, although we hope to operate a drop-in activity center for area teens in the common area of the facility. Absent an authorized exception by the facility director, the teens will not be permitted to stay longer than two weeks, and every effort will be made to find alternative housing arrangements during this period. The facility is not intended to become a long-term home, but repeaters could be accepted if space permits and reasonable evidence exists that family reconciliation or other placement may be successful.**

**The 3494 sq. ft. facility was built in 2000 and was designed specifically for, and subsequently licensed and operated as, a both unsecured and secured residential crisis center under WAC Chapter 388-160. It has a commercial kitchen and has passed numerous inspections of both the health and fire inspectors. We have recently cleaned the ductwork, which was the only serious maintenance issue we found when taking possession in February 2011. (Utilities are expensive, however, given it's use of natural gas heating.) Given the design and prior use, especially the security features and large common areas, it is probably the best facility in the Tri-City area for our purpose of sheltering homeless teens. Its use for almost any other purpose, in fact, would require significant remodeling. We intend to use two thirds of it for housing the clients of the My Friends Place program; the other portion would be dedicated to office and classroom space for trainings directly related to My Friends Place and other Safe Harbor programs.**