

# CAPSA houses will help victims escape abuse

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LOGAN -- Abuse victims in Cache County are getting more help to navigate a new life away from violence and poverty.

Two houses are opening in Logan next week as transitional housing, which will be a next step toward success for people sheltered at Community Abuse Prevention Services Agency (CAPSA), a Logan organization to help and shelter abuse victims and work toward abuse prevention.

The two houses are the first of nine planned for the city, said Jill Anderson, CAPSA executive director. Eighteen more will eventually be built in Hyrum.

While all the other crisis intervention services CAPSA provides are critical, Anderson said, victims often need longer support than that.

"This limited amount of time the victims have in our shelters doesn't give them enough time to move beyond survival and thrive in our community," she said. "They get stuck in low-paying jobs and the rent cycle. We wanted to offer them transitional housing that would give them time to build a lifelong asset, whether that's getting education or saving for a down payment on a house or starting a small business."

The housing project is called Independence Place and will provide homes where families can stay for up to two years, Anderson said.

Anderson said CAPSA employees and those staying in the shelter are very excited about the new transitional housing.

She said people will come in with several children, wondering how they will find a job, pay rent and feed their families.

"They felt hopeless, but now it's hopefulness to build a life free from the violence," Anderson said. "It fills them full of hope."

These two houses are the result of five years worth of dreaming, fundraising and hard work and will be a valuable resource to build a better future, Anderson said.

"We're able to show them there are resources out there. There's a path for you to do this," she said. "Knowing their housing is taken care of and they can move beyond surviving day-to-day is an incredible opportunity for them and it's really exciting for us to watch them fly and succeed."

CAPSA sheltered 220 people for nearly 2,800 nights in fiscal year 2009. So far in 2010, that number is up to 308 people and nearly 3,800 nights.

The organization is still trying to raise the \$850,000 needed to build the remaining seven homes. They are selling engraved bricks for the Independence Place neighborhood for \$50 each to help pay for the project.