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For Immediate Release

RUTH HOUSE GRAND OPENING

**November 30, 2005 Marks Grand Opening of Hope Gospel Mission's New Ruth House
Women's Shelter for Western Wisconsin's Homeless Single Women**

EAU CLAIRE, Wis., Nov. 28, 2005— Hope Gospel Mission, a non-profit agency with six years of success in helping homeless men and women of Western Wisconsin, today announced the November 30 grand opening of its newly constructed Ruth House, a 12-bed facility designed for homeless, single women.

The Ruth House project, at 2516 Moholt Drive, began in the spring of 2004. Through a major fundraising campaign, the Mission secured almost \$500,000 to complete construction of the new facility.

“Undertaking the project during difficult economic times has been extremely challenging, but people understood the urgent need. I am proud to say this is the community's Mission. Together, we are making a statement that all people in Western Wisconsin deserve love and hope for a better life,” stated Brent Hafele, Stewardship Director at Hope Gospel Mission.

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Ruth House, like Hope Gospel Mission's Men's Shelter, is much more than just a bed and a meal for the night—it provides safe housing, food, clothing, and other basic necessities as well as one-on-one counseling and extensive supportive services to enable residents to successfully get back on their feet and break the cycle of homelessness.

“With winter fast approaching, it is especially meaningful to open this shelter. Single women now have a place to refuge,” stated Hafele. “Not only will they have a warm and safe place to sleep at night, but they will also have access to Hope Gospel Mission's programs and services designed to help the homeless overcome the barriers in their lives.”

A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 4:00 p.m. on November 30, with food and refreshments to follow. Interviews with Executive Director Gary Steward and Stewardship Director Brent Hafele will be available, as well as guided tours throughout the new facility.

For more information, visit www.hopegospelmission.org or contact Elizabeth Meyer at (715) 552-5566.

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