



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PATHWAYS 4 YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTER OPENING FEBRUARY IN ST. CLOUD

ST. CLOUD, Minn. – The Rotary Clubs of the greater St. Cloud area in partnership with HOPE 4 Youth are pleased to announce the opening of a youth opportunity center called Pathways 4 Youth (P4Y) in February 2018. The center, which will serve 16 - 23-year-olds experiencing homelessness, will be located in the Youth for Christ building, Suite 260, 203 Cooper Avenue N., St. Cloud.

The resource center will be open 2 - 7 p.m. Monday-Friday to serve as an entry point for the youth to access resources including social services and medical professionals, computers, lockers, showers, mailing address, food, clothing, laundry facilities and an evening meal.

The Rotary Club of St. Cloud will be joined by the Granite Rotary Club, the Great River Rotary Club and the St. Cloud Rotaract Club in sponsoring the launch of this initiative.

“Through thorough research and feedback from area social service agencies, law enforcement, and school systems, we learned that there is an unmet and growing need for this type of resource center,” said Tim Wensman, Rotary member and one of the lead volunteers on the project. “It is estimated that there are between 125 - 150 youth between the ages of 16 and 23 who are homeless on any given night in the greater St. Cloud area.”

After researching and touring other homeless youth-serving organizations around Minnesota, Rotary leadership decided that HOPE 4 Youth, a non-profit providing pathways to end youth homelessness headquartered in the north metro suburbs of the Twin Cities, was the model that would best fit the St. Cloud area. They will be a key partner providing the processes, procedures, systems and oversight that will assure a successful launch and sustainable youth opportunity center. Volunteers from the Rotary Clubs of St. Cloud, along with other service clubs, organizations and community members, will provide ongoing support and services in the center.

Rotary Club of St. Cloud has established P4Y as a 501c3 non-profit organization and developed a business plan to ensure its long-term sustainability. The youth opportunity center is partnering with many local social service agencies including Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud and Stearns County Department of Human Services to help coordinate care for the youth and not duplicate the services that are currently available.

“Our main goal is to help these young people navigate a path to grow and become contributing members in our communities,” Wensman noted.

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