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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HOMEWORK HOUSE OPENS NEW  
SIXTH STREET LOCATION**

**Azusa, Calif., January 26, 2004: Our Neighborhood Homework House, which provides free tutoring and mentoring to at-risk students in troubled Azusa neighborhoods, opened a new location in the Lee School neighborhood.**

**The City of Azusa Police has identified the neighborhood as one that has a high rate of drug abuse, domestic violence, and extreme poverty.**

**Homework House will begin serving 25 students in kindergarten through third grade at its new Sixth Street location. The facility will offer programs two days a week with two tutoring sessions each day after school. Relying on volunteers, mostly students from nearby Azusa Pacific University, tutors help students complete homework assignments and provide extra math and reading assistance.**

**But what makes Homework House unique is that it is located right in the apartment complex where the children in need live. Therefore, the program goes beyond just helping the students improve academically. It quickly becomes a haven for the children – and their families - where none existed before.**

**“Being in the neighborhood where the children live allows us to walk alongside the families,” says Kerry Freeman, founder and executive director of Our Neighborhood Homework House.**

**Freeman, a former elementary school teacher, originally launched Homework House back in 1997. Since that time, the program has focused on an ethnically diverse neighborhood of Azusa known as Ninth Street – an area well-known as a hub of drug trafficking, gang, violence, and high racial tension.**

**Homework House rents a small two-bedroom apartment right in one of the complexes in the Ninth Street neighborhood.**

**At its Ninth Street location, Homework House currently serves 90 students in kindergarten through high school and has 60 volunteer tutors.**

**The new Sixth Street location helps Homework House continue to fulfill its goals of empowering at-risk children to achieve their fullest potential academically, socially, and spiritually.**

**Our Neighborhood Homework House is a non-profit Christian-based organization. It is not affiliated with any church or denomination and serves children of all faiths and backgrounds.**

**Our Neighborhood Homework House is governed by an eight-member board of directors, comprised of educators, city officials, and religious leaders. Its major funding sources include grants from the City of Azusa and Azusa Unified, as well as private, foundation, and church donations.**

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