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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXODUS MEN'S RECOVERY PROGRAM CELEBRATES OPENING OF TRANSITIONAL HOME FACILITY

CINCINNATI – October 16, 2006 – Supporters, participants and friends of City Gospel Mission's Exodus Program, a recovery program for men, recently celebrated the opening of Genesis House, a new residential facility at 2333 May Street in Walnut Hills.

"The whole Exodus Program is about changed lives," said City Gospel Mission President Roger Howell. "We're excited about today because our mission is about helping people making progress in their lives."

The City Gospel Mission Exodus Program helps formerly incarcerated, addicted and disenfranchised men rebuild their lives through holistic assessment, life skills training, job training and counseling.

"We inspire the men to live purposefully and with a greater awareness of their own health and potential," said Sherman Bradley, Exodus director. "Urban life has a strong lure towards drugs and crime. The City Gospel Mission Exodus program lets these men know that they deserve a better life."

The home, which provides comfortable transitional living space for five program participants, provides support while the men transition into the community.

"We have long recognized that changing men's lives is best accomplished with the aid of transitional housing to support men as they progress toward reshaped lives," Bradley said. "Through much hard work, working with those donors and volunteers who shared our vision, we now see our vision realized."

The event celebrated the donation of the house by Christ Emmanuel Christian Fellowship Church and its extensive rehabbing, refurbishing and landscaping by donors and volunteers, notably Jim Bush, owner of City Dash courier service, who handled the renovation; Tom Oylar, who donated all new furniture and appliances plus artwork from local Cincinnati artists; and Crossroads Community Church in Oakley, which provided landscaping labor and materials.

In addition to Howell and Bradley, open house program participants included Bishop Michael Dantley, pastor of Christ Emmanuel Christian Fellowship Church; City Councilman Cecil Thomas, and WLWT-Channel 5 anchor Curtis Fuller, who emceed the event.

The celebration event was coordinated by Iris Bush, executive director of the Flying Pig Marathon, with the help of Betsy Ross, president of Game Day Communications.

Guests enjoyed tours of the new facility in addition to the program and a reception.

Since 1924, City Gospel Mission has been committed to breaking the cycle of urban despair one life at a time. Each year the mission provides physical, emotional and spiritual assistance to men, women and children through its helping services such as daily meals, overnight shelter for men and emergency food baskets, as well as recovery and rehabilitation services for men and women. The mission provides a caring, supportive environment where homeless and hurting people are treated with respect and encouraged to accept responsibility for rebuilding their lives. For more information visit www.citygospelmission.com.

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