

## **Interior Design Students from Collins College Refurbish A Group Home for Adolescent Girls**

*The design project illustrates the hands on learning offered at Collins Collge.*

Tempe, AZ (PRWEB) June 23, 2005 -- Interior design students from Collins College completely renovated the interior of a girls' residential home for New Horizon Youth Homes, Inc. The students donated their time to design, remodel and manage the project. The students also solicited thousands of dollars in building materials and labor from local businesses to refurbish the home's interior. Five girls between the ages of 11 and 17 years old will live in the group home.

New Horizon Youth Homes, Inc. (NHYH) is a non-profit agency that specializes as a residential adolescence group home. Adolescents are placed with NHYH for a number of reasons, including abandonment, abuse/neglect, and delinquent behavior. The program is designed to assist in the development of goals associated with independent living.

“When we purchased the 1,900 square-foot house, it definitely needed to be remodeled. The Collins interior design students adopted our agency as the school's community project and totally took charge of the entire interior design process. About 20 students from Collins donated hundreds of hours fixing up the house and seeking donations from local businesses. The students went beyond the scope of what we ever expected,” said Adriana Granado, office manager of New Horizon Youth Homes, Inc.

The Collins College interior design students involved in the NHYH project belong to the Southwest chapter of the International Interior Design Association. According to Tony Sola, vice president of education, Southwest chapter of IIDA, “I encourage IIDA chapters to become actively involved in the community. Under the leadership of Heather Tenny, student president of IIDA at Collins College, the students spearheaded the project, and on their own, acquired all of building materials and furniture to completely remodel the inside of a house.

Valley businesses generously donated the following items at no charge or at cost: new carpet, 40 gallons of interior and exterior paint, bathroom fixtures, tile flooring for the kitchen and bathrooms, bathroom tile for two showers, granite counter tops for two bathrooms and the kitchen, furniture for the living room, dining room, kitchen, and three bedrooms, and a built-in outside barbeque installation. In addition, all of the businesses donated their time and labor. A local church landscaped the front yard.

“The house looks brand new and more importantly it creates a homelike atmosphere for the five young women who will be making this their home. It makes such a difference in their lives to have a safe and comfortable environment,” said Granado.

“The house has been literally transformed all through the efforts of about 20 students. Collins College student IIDA chapter is extremely proactive and committed to giving back to the community. It is among the most active chapters I supervise in Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada. The students have done a fantastic job,” said Sola.

For her efforts, Tenny was recently awarded the IIDA Campus Center Outstanding Achievement award.

According to Tenny, “Refurbishing NHYH has been extremely rewarding for me and for all of the Collins

interior design students who participated. Our goal is to stay connected with the girls and mentor them in anyway we can.”

New Horizon Youth Homes, Inc. currently runs four group homes throughout the Valley. The organization operates three boys’ homes and one girls’ home. The new home, soon to open in Chandler, will be the organization’s second girls’ home.

#### About Collins College

Collins College provides students with career-focused education in design and technology. Approximately 2,000 students from across the nation attend Collins College. Collins offers bachelor’s degrees in visual communication, graphic design, interior design, animation, game design, media arts, management, applied technology management, and network technology. Associate’s degrees are offered in visual communication, media arts and personal computer/network technology. All programs are designed to prepare students for entry-level positions in their degree areas. For more information on Collins College, visit [www.collinscollege.edu](http://www.collinscollege.edu) or call 480-966-3000.

#### About New Horizon Youth Homes, Inc.

New Horizon Youth Homes, Inc. mission is to create a family atmosphere where young men and women are provided with the opportunity to grow as individuals, establish positive interpersonal relationships and learn key independent living skills. New Horizon Youth Homes, Inc. is a premier provider of Level III residential services for young men and women ages eleven to seventeen. Adolescents are placed in a high school or GED setting and are taught independent living skills. NHYH provides clients with counseling through state licensed therapists or outside agencies. The organization is committed to helping appropriate-aged youth find employment or enrollment in vocational skills training. For more information on New Horizon Youth Homes, Inc, call 480-722-2730 or visit: [www.nhyh.org](http://www.nhyh.org).

#### About International Interior Design Association

IIDA is a professional networking and educational association of more than 10,000 members in eight specialty forums and more than 30 chapters around the world.

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