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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OZONE HOUSE IS OPENING NEW FRONT DOORS FOR YOUTH IN CRISIS

ANN ARBOR, MI – Ozone House is set to open a new home for youth in crisis in Ypsilanti, MI by the end of 2019.

As of April, Ozone House's "**Front Door**" **fundraising campaign** has raised more than \$3.8 million to build a new 19,000 square-foot facility at 1600 N. Huron River Drive. "When young people walk through our front door, it changes the trajectory of their lives," says Krista Girty, Executive Director.

The new home will have 16 private bedrooms that can sleep up to 32 young people, up from five shared rooms that sleep 12 at their two current facilities, 11 dedicated counseling rooms, three kitchens, seven youth bathrooms, a food pantry, multiple laundry and shower facilities, easy access to public transportation and be fully ADA compliant" says campaign co-chair Susan Allison. "The house will be on the Huron River on a beautifully wooded lot, ideal for providing young people a space to heal and overcome trauma."

"Young people that are fleeing violence, neglect, or rejection need to know there is safe place they can go in their community. We have been doing this work for 50 years and it's time our facilities' quality to match the quality of our services." Says Girty. "Ozone House has moved seven times in its 50 year history and is ready for the stability of a forever home in the community."

Homelessness for youth means more than the absence of a safe place to sleep, enough food to eat or shelter from the cold. It means a lack of safe, stable, reciprocal relationships and vulnerability to dangers such as physical assault, sexual assault, or human trafficking. Ozone House helps young people in Washtenaw County, ages 10-24, develop safe and reciprocal relationships, as well as shelter them from the cold and dangers of being homeless.

Ozone House reached over 4,000 young people in 2018, providing 24-hour year-round services at no charge to youth and families.

We invite community members to make a contribution that will ensure Ozone House can support young people and their families for the next 50 years and beyond. To make a donation please go to www.ozonehouse.org, call 734-662-2265 or send checks to Ozone House with (*Front Door* in memo line) to 1705 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

For 50 years we have never wavered about putting young people first while we have also grown and evolved to meet our young people where they are.

The community is invited to Ozone House's 50th anniversary celebration on June 2, 2019, at The Farm at St. Joe's (5557 McAuley Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48197) from 2-5pm. Please RSVP at rsvp@ozonehouse.org. Tours of the new home and presentations from young people will occur throughout the event.

About Ozone House. Ozone House is a community-based organization that offers young people, who are in crisis, face homelessness or housing instability, a safe space. We help youth lead safe, healthy, and productive lives through intervention and prevention services, and programming that meets the needs of youth seeking supports. Services include emergency services, counseling, drop-in center, transitional housing, job training, leadership opportunities, LGBTQ+ services, college support, school support K-12, and substance abuse support. Ozone House has been in the community since 1969. www.ozonehouse.org.





