

"No other program in Iowa that I am aware of treats this age group of girls in a residential setting, teaching them life skills with a program designed to address girls' needs and problems. It is long over due."

— Senator Mary Lundby, 26th District

For a group of older girls — ages 15 to 17 — the prospect of living independently when they age out of the system is bleak and terrifying. With histories of multiple placements or failed foster care, doing poorly with academics, fighting the effects of physical or sexual abuse, coping — or not coping — with drug or alcohol addiction, these girls must learn to live on their own.

And this must happen as they face other problems associated with teenage girls — low self-esteem, distorted self-image, intense peer relationships and the absence of successful role models.

Alternative Services' new Girls' Treatment Center will provide the supervised, residential setting needed for girls to transition to living successfully on their own. No other residential program in Iowa treats older girls using a gender-specific approach to programming. Without help their chaotic lives will continue minus the life skills, work skills or education

needed to buffer the challenges of their futures. Later, unwanted pregnancies and a lifetime on welfare close their poverty circles.

Building on a 22-year history of successful treatment of high-risk teenagers including the Anita Daniels Pre-Independent Living Program for boys, Alternative Services is creating an innovative, gender-specific program for older girls.

Scheduled to open in late fall of 2002 on the agency's Horizon Center campus in Marion, the new Girls' Treatment Center will reach out to a widely underserved group of girls helping them to leave the system and face the world as successful adults.

For these young women and our communities, this is a critical 'about face.'



Is she ready
to face the world?

*Probably not.
Unless she receives help.*



*Girls'  Treatment Center
Campaign*

*Kristin Novak, Brad Hart, Nancy Evans, Campaign Leadership Co-Chairmen
Robert J. Buntz, Jr., President*

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Help • Healing • Hope



Girls'  Treatment Center

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*Girls'
Treatment Center
Campaign*

Campaign
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Nancy Evans

Campaign
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We have a pre-independent living program for boys but nothing for girls. The proposed treatment center would fill this gap ... Currently, many girls fail in independent living due to the lack of a residential program to assist in the transition. ... It is my expectation that the need for the services which would be provided by the Girls' Treatment Center will increase.

- David Remley, Chief Judge, 6th Judicial District

I very strongly believe the proposed program will address a serious gap in the current services available for girls. ... Alternative Services has experience in developing both gender specific programming and a pre-independent living program. They have had success in both area and I have every reason to believe that they will have success with this current proposal as well.

- Susan Flaherty, Juvenile Judge, 6th Judicial District

I have been an advocate for these girls for many years; I know that when girls end up staying in the system after they turn 18 that they often bring their children with them. We must do everything we can to avoid this.

- Sen. Mary Lundby, 26th District

There is no doubt in my mind that young ladies come with different issues than the young men that I see in the Juvenile Court system on a daily basis.

- Jane Mylrea, Associate Juvenile Court Judge, 1st District

As a member of the Human Services' Appropriations Sub-committee in the Iowa House and the Ranking Member of the House Human Resources Committee, I look for ways to get the greatest return from Iowa taxpayer dollars. The Girls' Treatment Center project represents an important new service for Iowa and one that can bring great benefit to our communities.

Rep. Ro Foege, 50th District

I have often felt that our system is ill equipped to deal with adolescent females. I wholeheartedly agree with Alternative Services' approach to this group home in that it will be gender-specific to females and will not model treatment regimens primarily designed for adolescent males.

- Michael J. Newmeister, District Associate Judge, 6th District

A very special need for this community has been identified. That need is that treatment for juvenile girls be different that treatment for juvenile boys. ... This concept has kept the total cost of the project down by avoiding unnecessary duplication. ... Finally, I am very pleased that Alternative Services has committed to what the financial benefits to the community will be.

- Rep. Jeff Elgin, 51st District

Help ♦ Healing ♦ Hope



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Joint Transportation, Infrastructure and Capitals Committee Meeting Presentation March 14, 2002

An opportunity to fund a unique, model treatment program for teenage girls in Iowa, the first program of its kind, and to establish a standard for development of similar programs throughout the Midwest

Alternative Services Girls' Treatment Center

"It is my expectation that the need for the services which would be provided by the proposed girls' treatment center will increase. The judicial system is devoting additional resources to juvenile court in an effort to meet current needs."

-David Remley, Chief Judge 6th Judicial District

Project-

Total Construction, Remodeling, Site Costs and Frontage Road - 6,500-square-foot addition - Includes living wing, multi-purpose classroom, storage facility and remodeling on Alternative Services' Horizon Center Campus, Marion, Iowa	\$800,000
Program Development (borne by Alternative Services)	\$100,000

Timeline – Ground breaking - May '02 Program Operational – October '02

Financing - Fundraising, Grants, Sale of Tax-exempt Bonds

Private funding sources as of 3/1/02 include:

Hall-Perrine Foundation	\$125,000
Rockwell, Diamond V Mills, Quaker Oats, Variety Club, CRST, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, United Fire, Great/America	
Leasing and others	131,000
Fund raising events	28,000
Individuals	<u>32,000</u>
	\$316,000

Public Funding Request – State of Iowa Infra-Structure Fund - \$200,000

Taxpayer Savings –

The teenage population this center serves has a high probability of becoming single mothers on welfare. A single mother of two is eligible for \$15,924 a year in public assistance for five years.

If this treatment program keeps only 11 young women from falling back into the cycle of welfare and dependence their lives are headed for, it will save taxpayers more than \$800,000 – the total cost of the Girls' Treatment Center project!

FOR IOWA'S YOUTH AND FAMILIES



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Project –

- Alternative Services, a Cedar Rapids-based human services agency serving eastern Iowa, seeks to provide a model, pre-independent living program for court-ordered girls ages 16 to 18 years old, to prepare them to live successfully on their own before they age out of the juvenile system.
- The new Girls' Treatment Center to be located in Marion, Iowa, is designed for girls who are transitioning from high-structure placements, and is a counterpart to the agency's established Anita Daniels Pre-Independent Living Program for boys.
- Area legislators, Juvenile Court judges and Juvenile Court officers widely support the need for this program as no comparable program currently exists.
- This will be the first gender-specific, residential program of its kind in Iowa and will accept referrals from across the state as the Anita Daniels boys' program currently does.

Agency representatives –

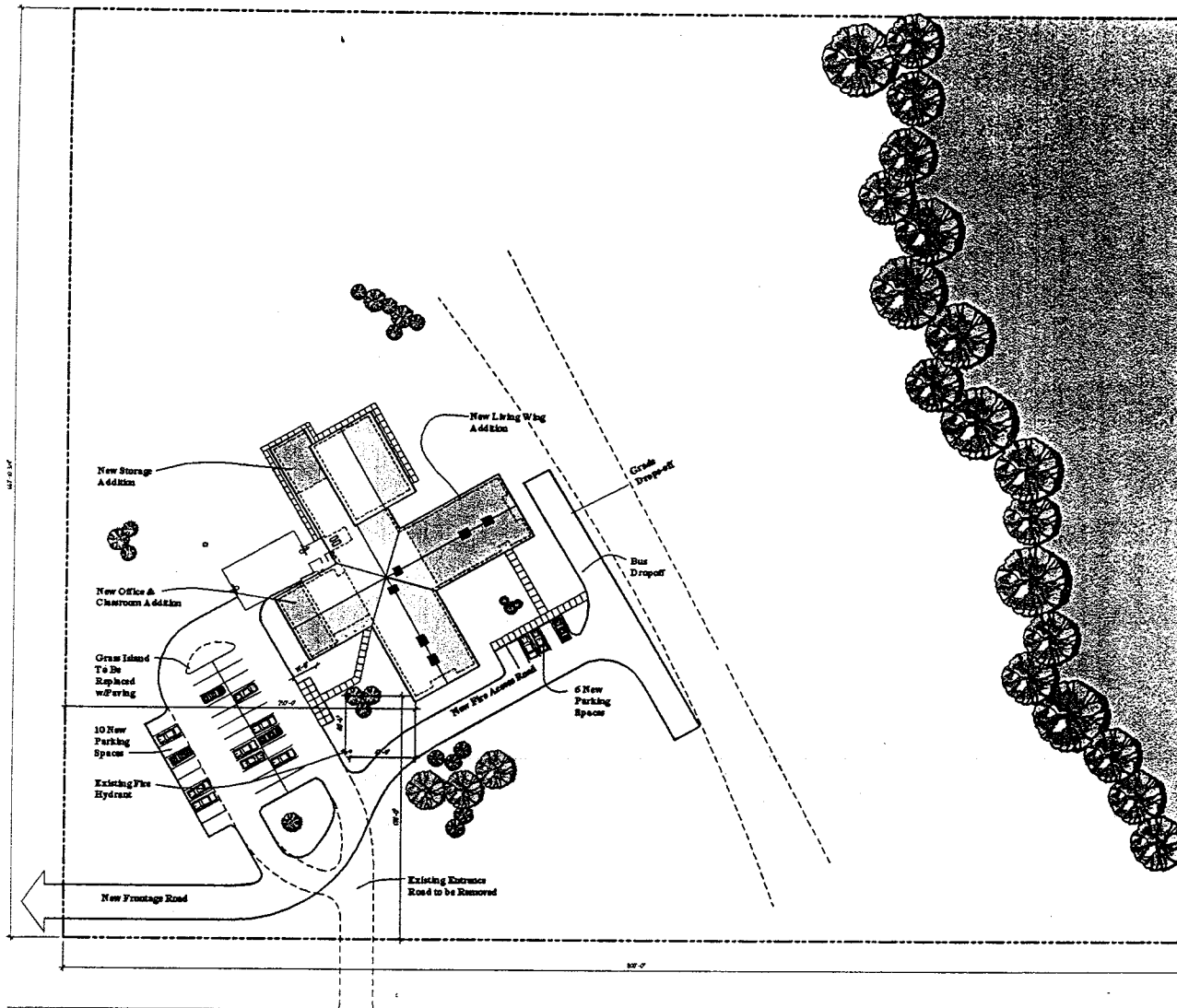
Kristin Novak, Chairman, Alternative Services' Board
Nancy Evans, Chair-elect
Brad Hart, Past Chairman
Bob Buntz, President
Kathy Horan, Chief Operating Officer
Carey Downs Gibson, Development Director

Agency background –

- Alternative Services has been serving Iowa's youth with a variety of programs since 1979 when the agency pioneered supervised independent living in Iowa. The agency is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, one of only 14 agencies in the state to hold this level of professional accreditation.
- During FY 2000-01 approximately 3,000 children and families in 55 counties received our services. The agency presently offers a continuum of services through offices and programs based in Cedar Rapids, Marion, Hiawatha, Davenport, Decorah, Dubuque, Mason City, Tama, Tipton, and Waterloo.
- The organization has earned a solid reputation for successful treatment of court-ordered adolescents and teens through early intervention.

Sample Alternative Services field office profiles FY 2000-01 -

- **Decorah** - 248 children in Howard, Winneshieck, Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton and Fayette Counties; 26 staff; Family-Centered Services, Foster Care, Tracking, Transportation, Life Skills, Adoption.
- **Dubuque** – 507 children in Dubuque and Delaware Counties; 23 staff; Family-Centered Services, After School Groups, Transportation and Foster Care Home Studies.
- **Mason City** – 148 children in Winnebago, Worth, Mitchell, Hancock, Cerro Gordo & Floyd Counties; 13 staff; Family-Centered Services, Family Foster Care and Foster Care Home Studies.
- **Waterloo** – 335 children in Bremer, Butler, Franklin, Hardin, Grundy, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Marshall, Tama and Benton counties; 21 staff; Family-Centered Services, Foster Care and Supervised Independent Living.
- **Davenport** – 184 children in Jones, Jackson, Clinton, Cedar, Scott & Muscatine Counties; 6 staff; Family-Centered Services, Foster Care, Independent Living, Crisis Response, ASAP & RAP programs.



Hwy 151

Horizon Center Additions / Remodeling

Marion, Iowa
February 4, 2002

O N
ARCHITECTS

Site Plan

