

For Immediate Release

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## **Sun-Sentinel Awards Grant to Gratitude House's Mothers & Infants Program**

**(West Palm Beach, FL)** -- The Sun-Sentinel recently awarded a \$7,500 grant to Gratitude House for the treatment facility's Mothers & Infants in Treatment Together (MITT) program.

"We are so grateful to have the support of the Sun-Sentinel, who helped us initiate this program and has supported us for the last three years," said Gratitude House Executive Director Gail Dempsey.

MITT is a program for pregnant and postpartum women, specifically designed so that newborns and infants can live in residence with their mothers as they receive chemical dependency treatment. Unlike traditional models that ask women to choose between drug treatment and continuing to parent their infants, MITT allows infants to receive therapeutic services concurrent to their mother's treatment. Set in a nurturing residential environment, these women are given an opportunity to model appropriate familial relationships and parenting skills. The treatment is child-focused, helping women to have safer pregnancies and healthier babies, become better parents, bond with their infants, and assure infants receive appropriate developmental interventions and support.

In addition to providing traditional counseling, relapse prevention, and self-help services for alcohol and drug problems, Gratitude House partners with several children and family case management organizations and agencies, such as Families First (Bright Beginnings and TOPWA Programs), Healthy Start, Head Start, and CSC provides a "Mommy and Me" group. Gratitude House arranges for multiple on- and off-site services through these agencies, such as prenatal and postpartum medical care for the mothers, training in parenting and life skills, and child development milestones training.

Gratitude House Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation, founded in 1968 and located in West Palm Beach. Its primary mission is to offer rehabilitation and support services with dignity and respect to the chemically dependent female in a nurturing, safe and caring environment, without regard for race, religion, political preference, national origin, or personal financial capacity. The goal is to return these women to society as self-sufficient, productive citizens.

For more information call (561) 833-6826 or visit [www.gratitudehouse.org](http://www.gratitudehouse.org).

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