



## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Mission Solano Receives Funds to Start Next Phase in Fairfield**

Mission Solano celebrated Christmas by welcoming their first guests to the newest buildings at their Bridge to Life Center in Fairfield. As soon as the New Year arrived, however, the Mission started planning for the groundbreaking of the Center's next phase. That next phase is one step closer to reality, thanks to an award of \$500,000 from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of San Francisco.

"We're grateful for this award and what it will mean for the most needy in our community," said Ron Marlette, Mission Solano Executive Director. "And we're thankful for the efforts of First Northern Bank of Dixon in bringing this about."

Federal Home Loan grants require the participation of a "member institution" (a bank). Unfortunately, the member institution that previously sponsored Mission Solano was sold to another bank a number of years ago. Last year, First Northern stepped up to the plate, by working with Mission Solano to apply for these funds and agreeing to monitor the use of the grant for a number of years in the future. "It really says something about First Northern's priorities that they would go to all of this effort for a charitable organization during the current economic downturn," Marlette said.

"First Northern Bank is a very active FHLB member," explained Louise Walker, the Bank's Senior Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer. "On February 1<sup>st</sup>, we will celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> year in business as an independent community bank, which encompasses 100 years of giving back to the communities we serve. There is no better reward than working with Mission Solano to shelter homeless adults and children *and* to provide the residents with skills training to assist in their future economic success."

Since 2007, First Northern has directly contributed nearly \$200,000 to Solano County nonprofit organizations; Bank employees working in Solano County have volunteered more than 7,145 hours of service.

**Additional Funds Still Needed to Expand Mission Solano Center**

The Bridge to Life Center currently has beds for as many as 154. The next phase of construction will produce 50 more beds, a dining hall and a caretaker's house. The Mission hopes to secure additional funding and be able to begin construction on all of these buildings by spring or summer of this year.

The FHLB award is in addition to a \$1 million grant that helped finance the last phase of construction at the Bridge to Life Center. Mission Solano was one of only 49 grant recipients selected from a pool of 179 applicants. The combined awards to Mission Solano from the FHLB represent the maximum amount that one project may receive.

Marlette did add a cautionary note. "We want to celebrate this grant, but make sure everybody understands that these funds pay for construction, not operations. With each new bed comes the cost of three meals a day and all of the other necessities of life. We need the help of our generous community now as much as ever."

To find out more about Mission Solano or donate to its work, please visit [www.missionsolano.org](http://www.missionsolano.org).

**About Mission Solano**

In 1998, recognizing that many people struggling with addiction needed more than "three hots and a cot," Mission Solano Rescue Mission focused its vision to develop long-term residential treatment for homeless addicted men, women and children. The Mission Solano Rescue Mission has successfully met the basic necessities of the homeless and poverty stricken population since 1998. Its unique and nationally recognized Nomadic Sheltering Program provides emergency shelter nights to those in need, while maintaining and managing its Community Outreach Center and Social Industries distributing food, clothing and ongoing community services. Their doors are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Help is available without charge to any person regardless of race, color, creed or social standing. Mission Solano operates entirely on voluntary contributions and adheres to a strict code of financial ethics. More information is available at [www.solanocompassion.org](http://www.solanocompassion.org).

**About First Northern Bank**

First Northern Bank, an independent community bank headquartered in Solano County, is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year in business throughout 2010. The Bank currently serves Solano, Yolo, Sacramento and Placer counties as well as the west slope of El Dorado County. First Northern operates 11 branches in Dixon, Davis, West Sacramento, Fairfield, Vacaville (2), Winters, Woodland, Downtown Sacramento, Roseville, and most recently Auburn. First Northern also has an SBA Loan Office and full service Trust Department in Sacramento and offers non-FDIC insured Investment and Brokerage Services at each branch location. Bank stock is listed on the OTC Bulletin Board under the ticker symbol "FNRN." More information is available at [www.thatsmybank.com](http://www.thatsmybank.com).