

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE USE

OPEN HOUSE FOR FOSTER CARE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Grand Rapids, Mich. —May 16, 2006— Imagine graduating high school and having no one to celebrate with. D.A. Blodgett for Children makes sure none of the students in their foster care program go unrecognized. On Thursday, May 18, 2006 from 5 to 6:30 p.m., there will be an open house for these graduates at D.A. Blodgett's campus, located at 805 Leonard Street NE in Grand Rapids.

Even after being separated from their birth parents and living with foster families, 15 students are graduating from high school and will be commended for their achievements. It will be a final celebration before many of these young adults are responsible for independent living. D.A. Blodgett's counseling staff has helped prepare the students to leave their foster homes, find housing, secure a job, and seek higher education.

Food will be provided by Yesterdog, and each senior will receive a care basket filled with household necessities and a gift certificate to Meijers or Target to purchase housekeeping items.

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Congratulating the graduates by donating items, such as pillows, blankets, sheets, pots and pans, towels, and other household supplies will help them successfully transition into independent living. To donate or receive more information about foster care, contact D.A. Blodgett for Children at (616) 451-2021.

With 119 years of experience in child and family services, D.A. Blodgett for Children gives Kent County youth lasting connections through foster care, adoption, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Children's lives are also transformed through pregnancy support, in-home counseling for kids and families, and young delinquent intervention programs. In 2005, 319 children were assisted through D.A. Blodgett's foster care program.

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