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## **FITCHBURG-BASED OUR FATHER’S HOUSE, INC. TO OPERATE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN DEVENS**

MassDevelopment announced today that Our Father’s House, Inc. has signed on to operate the transitional housing program for homeless women and their children in Devens. The Fitchburg-based non-profit has provided emergency shelter, transitional housing and comprehensive support services for homeless men and women in North Worcester County since 1985.

OFH Executive Director Barbara Garneau said, “We are excited and pleased to be able to expand our services into Devens and to increase our ability to serve homeless women and children in the region. I look forward to a long association with MassDevelopment and to working cooperatively with local service providers to help these families prepare for independence.” The new program, which will be called, Transitions at Devens, will begin serving the nearly 20 families who are living in Devens at Sylvia’s Haven, Inc. in early September.

“Barbara Garneau does an outstanding job in Fitchburg. She is a widely respected, dynamic and caring leader in the community of transitional housing and emergency shelter providers in our region,” said State Senator Robert A. Antonioni (D-Leominster). “Under her leadership, Our Father’s House has guided hundreds of women and men off the streets and back into the mainstream. She knows what it takes to marshal resources and tap into the social service network. She’ll be a tremendous asset for Devens.”

“We are proud to continue our commitment to serving homeless women and children in Devens and to be able to provide a place in our community where homeless women and their families can get back on their feet,” said Meg Delorier, MassDevelopment spokesperson. “Our Father’s House has more than 20 years of experience in helping people develop the confidence and life skills they need to help themselves and their children. We’re very happy to welcome Our Father’s House to Devens.”

Located in north central Massachusetts and managed by MassDevelopment, Devens is home to more than 80 businesses employing approximately 4,200. Created by statute in 1993 to support business growth and attract economic development opportunities in the region, the 4,400-acre enterprise zone features fast-track permitting and other incentives for businesses. The former military installation is recognized today as a national model for military base redevelopment. Along with its business tenants, the Devens community also includes more than 2,100 acres of recreation and open space, private residences, schools, and a network of human and social services providers. Together these organizations and amenities attract more than 200,000 visitors to Devens annually.

**-30-**

**DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS**

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