

Hometown News

Teen group home gets new name

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- For Hometown News

FORT PIERCE - Teenage girls living in foster care have a brighter future thanks to the generosity of well-known local philanthropists, the late Mr. Elliot and Mrs. Janet Baines of Vero Beach.

Children's Home Society (CHS) plans to honor Mr. and Mrs. Baines on April 14th, when its girls' group home will be officially named the Elliot and Janet Baines Hall.

A dedication ceremony will take place at the Girls' Group Home on the CHS Vero Beach campus, east of U.S. 1, on 10th Street, from 5 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

The Elliot and Janet Baines Hall is a group residence for girls ages 13 to their 18th birthday who have been removed from their family due to abuse, neglect or abandonment.

The home provides a safe place to live, a healthy, structured environment for up to twelve girls and has been operational on the property since 2006. Previously located in Winter Beach, more than 240 teenage girls from Okeechobee, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties have lived in the Girls' Group Home since it opened in 1998.

This event marks the first of several academic- or college-themed facilities for Children's Home Society Vero Beach campus.

"Elliot Baines truly cared about the children we serve, particularly the young girls living in our Group Home who he believed needed more help," said Lawrence Brooks, executive director, Children's Home Society of Florida Treasure Coast Division. "He always did what he could to improve the lives of others. Without contributors like Elliot and Janet, we could never have built our Girls' Group Home."

Mr. Elliot Baines, a beloved member of the community, naval officer, church Deacon, metallurgist and "quiet" philanthropist, passed away in September 2007, leaving a legacy of contributions to his favorite charitable causes. He was posthumously honored, along with Mrs. Baines, with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the local chapter of the

Association of Fundraising Professionals in November 2007. The Baines' also gave the lead contribution to CHS's new Youth Transition Center capital campaign.

For more information about Children's Home Society, call Tricia Jenkins, Director of Development, at (772) 489-5601.