



# Recovery Support Network

Transitional Housing for Women in Washington County

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## Press Release

### *For Immediate Release*

**March 9, 2009**

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### **New Director Hired for Transitional Housing Project**

MACHIAS, ME – The Recovery Support Network is pleased to announce the addition of Märta Conlin as Program Director for its transitional housing initiative, developed in conjunction with Bar Harbor based Maine Lighthouse. Ms. Conlin will be working in Machais with a broad group of volunteers to develop a safe, sober and supportive home environment for Washington County women in early recovery from alcoholism or addiction, either alone or with their children.

Ms. Conlin's prior public service around the issues of rural family support, substance abuse, and program capacity building includes her participation on Governor Brennan's Advisory Task Force on Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention; development of one of Maine's first two Drug Court programs; and work with domestic violence projects, child welfare and other social service programs. Having lived in Eastport, Pleasant Point, Indian Township, and Princeton – and raised three children there – she brings strong local connections to this grassroots effort. A lifelong volunteer, she is particularly conscious of the barriers and difficulties in sustaining recovery, as well as the resources that could be available to individuals and families seeking recovery in Washington County.

Maine Lighthouse has served as a catalyst for the creation of the Recovery Support Network (RSN), beginning in 2006 with small group discussions among women in recovery, local church leaders, and child advocates. Since then, RSN has formed a grassroots membership organization, incorporated with the state, and is currently seeking nonprofit status. Lighthouse was recently awarded a one-year planning grant to assist the Recovery Support Network develop the policies and procedures necessary to operate the home, build the organizational structure and work towards financial sustainability. The Dept. of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration awarded the grant. Maine Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe and Congressman Mike Michaud were all instrumental in securing the grant.

Together, the Recovery Support Network and Lighthouse hope to establish a home-like facility that will be ready to admit Washington County women in early 2010. This transitional housing program is unique in the county in that it ultimately will be able to serve women and their children. One of the acknowledged barriers to many women entering substance abuse programs is the inability to keep their children with them as they work on their own recovery. This program will begin to remove those barriers, and support both the mother and child through collaborations with many existing wrap-around services in Washington County.

Ms. Conlin can be reached at 207-263-6272 or by email at [info@recovery supportnetwork.org](mailto:info@recovery supportnetwork.org). For more information, visit the web site [www.recovery supportnetwork.org](http://www.recovery supportnetwork.org)

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