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EAST HOUSE “HOPE BENCH” PLACED AT TWELVE CORNERS

“Hope” the bench sponsored by East House, and designed and hand-painted by clients and staff members, is now on display at Twelve Corners in Brighton.

“Hope” was unveiled at a reception for sponsors and artists of 116 benches at Rochester Tech Park on May 10th. “Hope” and all benches are now displayed around Monroe County and are featured in a companion, hard-cover book. “The bench was a nice way for our staff to come together, share their hidden talent, and promote East House in the Rochester community,” said Greg Soehner, President of East House.

East House received a \$1,000 grant toward sponsorship of the bench, based on an idea to represent clients’ images of “hope.” Clients were asked, “What does Hope look like to you?” Thus, the artists, staff members Regina Bolivar, Nick Coulter, Mary Curran Hall, Melanie Steenhoff and Jo Marie Harter included many of their submitted thoughts and images of hope, such as a sunrise that symbolizes a new beginning, and the hope for a better tomorrow. Three of the agency’s group homes are pictured, where clients say they find peace, caring, trust, and friendship. The seat depicts a road of bricks that each feature a word shared by clients; words such as “confidence,” “believe,” “dreams,” and “recovery”.

The bench also includes a nod to the agency’s history of serving clients in the Rochester area. Symbols of this history are lilacs and a Rochester trolley, painted in colorful detail on the back of the bench. With the administrative office located at Lac De Ville Boulevard in Brighton, East House is member of the Brighton Chamber of Commerce. “We are pleased to have our bench placed at Twelve Corners,” continued Soehner. “We are proud to serve clients from all walks of life, in Brighton and around Monroe County, who are affected by mental illness or chemical dependency. We help clients to live healthier, more productive lives. Additionally, East House was founded by three well-known residents of Brighton: Hettie Shumway, Paul Wolk and the Honorable David Boehm.”

Founded by a group of parents in 1966, East House provides rehabilitative, residential and Career Service programs to more than 1,000 people who are recovering from mental illness and chemical dependency. For more information, call 256-3800, ext. 231.