

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Summit County officials celebrate grand opening of THRIVE House

AKRON – Summit County officials gathered on Frederick Boulevard in Akron's west side to celebrate the grand opening of THRIVE House, a new facility that will provide transitional housing and continued care for newly released individuals from the Summit County Jail who are unhoused and participating in the jail's THRIVE program.

The THRIVE program (Transition. Help. Restore. Independence. Value. Empower.) was developed in 2022 as a collaboration between Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatherree and Summit Psychological Associates. THRIVE pairs case managers with inmates who are struggling with mental health and substance use disorders to help them with their recovery, provide mental health treatment and medication services, and connect them with resources and benefits.

THRIVE House is a continuation of the Jail's THRIVE program, providing housing for those participating in the program who are unhoused at the time of their release.

The fourteen-bed facility is located at 1445 Frederick Blvd in Akron. It will be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by Community Support Services, who provide vocational, clinical, and housing support. While in THRIVE House, clients will continue working with case managers to reach their treatment goals, including finding permanent housing. Participation in the THRIVE program and residency at THRIVE House are voluntary.

Funding for the case management portion of the THRIVE Program is provided by the Summit County Executive's Office through opiate abatement funds. The THRIVE House property is owned by the Summit County Land Bank and was renovated and leased to Community Support Services for short-term behavioral health housing as well as

vocational and clinical support. Funding for the transitional housing and on-site services is being provided by the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board.

The goal of THRIVE House is to help those impacted by mental health and substance use disorders be connected to community-based treatment and other resources. Additionally, this program aims to increase treatment compliance, assist with housing and other basic needs, and reduce recidivism.

Speakers at this morning's ceremony included Sheriff Kandy Fatheree, County Executive Ilene Shapiro, Fiscal Officer Kristen Scalise, ADM Board Executive Director Aimee Wade, Community Support Services Director of Residential Services & Operations Keith Stahl, and Summit Psychological Associates' Chief Operating Officer and Clinical Director Dr. Deborah Walsh.

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