



## PRESS RELEASE

### Contact:

Rachel Wozniak  
Compass House  
716 886-1351  
rawozniak@verizon.net

### Compass House Hosts Breakfast for Legislative and Judicial Members

**[Buffalo, NY] (June 7, 2013)** – On Friday, June 7th Compass House hosted an informative breakfast for county, state, and federal legislative and judicial members to raise awareness about the runaway and homeless youth in Western New York. The breakfast took place at Compass House's Emergency Shelter on Linwood Avenue in Buffalo, where just a few weeks earlier provided shelter services to its **10,000<sup>th</sup> youth**. Guests had an opportunity to meet with staff and board members, as well as tour the facilities.

Every year in the Western New York region hundreds of youths run away from home due to abuse, neglect, family conflicts, and other issues. Thankfully many of these runaway youths find their way to Compass House, a not-for-profit agency that provides safe shelter and other services to runaways ages 12-24 in Western New York. Through Compass House, the youths are provided with shelter, food, and clothing, needed emergency services, and the tools necessary to create a safe and positive home environment.

Guests in attendance include Erie County Legislators Joseph Lorigo and Timothy Hogues, Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw, Buffalo City Court Judge Debra Givens, Erie County Judge Ken Case, as well as Chief of Staff Fiume of the Erie County Legislative Republican Caucus. Representatives from the offices of Senator Gillibrand, Congressman Collins, NYS Senators Kennedy and Grisanti, Assemblymembers Ryan and People-Stokes were also present.

The breakfast took place at Compass House's Emergency Shelter, which provides 24/7 safe shelter services for up to 13 youth ages 12 through 17. In addition to the Emergency Shelter, Compass House also offers a Resource Center as a non-residential program for youth ages 14 through 24 with Case Management Services, counseling, and positive social and recreational activities.

### About Compass House

*Founded in 1972, Compass House is a not-for-profit agency that offers safe shelter and services for runaway and homeless youth in Western New York. Compass House remains the only shelter and resource center for male and female runaway homeless youth ages 12-24 in Erie County. Our emergency shelter is opened 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and can house up to 13 youths ages 12-17. Services provided at the shelter include: immediate access to food, clothing, and emergency services, intake and assessment services, counseling, referrals, advocacy, and aftercare. In addition to the Emergency Shelter, Compass House runs a Resource Center, a non-residential program open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm (with extended hours 4 nights a week), that serves homeless youths ages 14-24 years. At the Resource Center, youths and young adults have access to intake services, case management, crisis counseling, positive social and recreational activities, advocacy, and much more.*

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