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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINALLY! TEEN DRUG TREATMENT IN SOUTH COUNTY Advent Offers Free Recovery Program for Youth in Morgan Hill

10/23/2008 – In late 2006, The Gilroy Dispatch reported, “Redemption is a faraway thing for many Gilroy teens. South County’s delinquents face long drives or even longer bus rides to San Jose programs that wean them from drugs and help dim their rage.”

We were happy to see your paper draw attention to this significant problem. Overcoming addiction is not only difficult but can also be very expensive. Adding the burden of a pricey commute can easily deter a struggling young addict from getting help.

Now, Advent Group Ministries is pleased to announce a solution: *Step Up!* South County. Through this unique program, youth ages 13-20 will be able to face their addictions without facing the hassle of a long, daily commute.

“Transportations issues should not stop kids who want treatment from getting it. That is just tragic,” said Mark Miller, executive director of Advent. “So we decided we just had to find a way to provide treatment in South County.”

The five-day-a-week FREE intensive outpatient program – the ONLY one of its kind in South County – will operate out of the DePaul Center in Morgan Hill. *Step Up!* offers participants and their families counseling support, peer group discussion and individual treatment.

The Department of Alcohol and Drug Services (DADS) has long identified the South County as the region most in need of drug and alcohol services for teens. “The Department of Alcohol and Drug Services has long recognized the need for expanded substance abuse services for youth in Santa Clara County,” said Stephen Betts, director of Children, Family and Community Services Division of the county’s DADS.

“We applaud Advent Group Ministries for taking the step to open this much needed program during a time of budget uncertainty. We anticipate this program will fill a significant gap.”

Gilroy Dispatch readers already know of this gap thanks to your previous reporting. Now it’s time to tell them how Step-Up! South County is making a difference to fill this gap. Jennifer Morrow, Director of Resource Development, can put you in touch with Advent staff who are working together to serve South County’s addicted youth. Call 408-281-0708 or send an email to jmorrow@adventgm.com.

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