



MATAWA FIRST NATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Matawa First Nations Make Large Donation to Help Local Charity

Thunder Bay, ON (June 2, 2008): David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO of Matawa First Nations, visited the John Howard Society Howard House today to announce a donation of \$10,000 towards their Transitional Housing fundraising campaign. The donation is being made in response to a recent community plea for financial support to keep the Howard House facility in operation. While presenting his donation, David Paul challenged other First Nation organizations and communities to pledge for the John Howard Society fundraising campaign.

“Many of our community members have and continue to use the services provided by John Howard Society. This organization has continually supported and assisted our people to turn their lives around and find a better path after incarceration. They have been particularly influential in working with some of our young people to help them find jobs, overcome addictions issues and make positive life changes. Without all our help, the John Howard Society is in jeopardy of loosing these highly needed programs and services; said CEO David Paul Achneepineskum. “They need all our help and I urge everyone to give, no matter how big or small,” he stated.

Howard House provides essential transitional housing and various reintegration and support programs for individuals who have been in conflict with the law. John Howard Society





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announced last fall that the facility would no longer be able to service the community unless it could raise \$100,000.

“We are extremely grateful that a First Nation organization like Matawa First Nations has chosen to support our organization and residents with this generous donation,” said Liisa Leskowski, Executive Director of John Howard Society Thunder Bay & District. “This donation will go a long way to helping us reach our \$100,000 goal so that we may continue to provide housing and programming to individuals who would otherwise have no where else to turn. We hope that other groups will take up the fundraising challenge set by Matawa First Nations today.”

The total estimated project of the John Howard Society – Transitional Housing Fundraising Campaign is \$100,000. The latest gift by Matawa First Nation brings the total secured for the campaign to \$60,000.

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