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For Immediate Release

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Marlborough-based Employment Options Launches Furnishing Options with Generous Support from Foundation for MetroWest

Congressman James McGovern to Officially Cut Ribbon on New Project that Helps Furnish Residents' Homes

Marlborough, MA; December 7, 2009: Employment Options, a recognized leader in providing a variety of crucial services to individuals recovering from mental illness will officially launch "Furnishing Options" on December 14, 2009. **Congressman James McGovern, Mayor Nancy Stevens, Senator James Eldridge and Representative Danielle Gregoire** will be present to cut the ribbon on this new and important project. The ribbon cutting will take place at 9:30AM at 66 Mechanic Street in Marlborough, the current location of the project.

Furnishing Options' mission is to provide a variety of household items to individuals in need, low income families or individuals recovering from mental illness or other disabilities. Those items may include sofas, tables, chairs, kitchen items such as pots and pans and other items such as lamps. Anything that can make a house into a home for people that may be struggling. Furnishing Options only accepts goods that are clean and in fine working condition.

Also present will be Judy Salerno executive director of the Foundation for MetroWest. The Foundation has awarded a generous grant of \$10,000 to help fund Furnishing Options. Ms Salerno will officially announce the awarding of the grant during the ribbon cutting.

The staff, members of Employment Options as well as other elected officials will also recognize the owner of the New Frye Building, Branch Yules. Mr. Yules has graciously donated the physical space for Furnishing Options at its 66 Mechanic Street location.

Furnishing Options additionally offers a training site for youth and adults with disabilities to develop leadership and employment skills including customer service, retail merchandising and inventory control.

The organization is currently being spearheaded by a volunteer group of local Marlborough residents. The group has already reached out to several local agencies as well as community groups and clergy to help spread the word and identify individuals that may need furnishings. People looking to donate, volunteer, or refer someone in need can contact the organization at 508-485-5051 x245

“While our name is Employment Options, many might be surprised to learn that we offer a whole host of other services to help people, “stated Toni Wolf, executive director of Employment Options. “We offer job training, counseling, life skills training and other services all geared toward giving certain people the dignity and respect they deserve. Turing someone’s house into a home with the proper furnishings or even a few pots to cook a meal in, gives the people we serve another layer of dignity that we all have a right to.”

About Employment Options:

Employment Options is a non-profit organization based in Marlborough, MA. The organization has been in operation for over 30 years and is well-known for providing mental health rehabilitation services, through the ‘Clubhouse’ program. Employment Options’ primary funding comes from the Department of Mental Health. Through inspiration, support and encouragement, Employment Options creates a home-away-from-home where people can overcome barriers to employment and discover personal growth, self-sufficiency, and hope. <http://www.employmentoptions.org/>

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