

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Community play features stories of WNC, benefits Homeward Bound of Asheville

ASHEVILLE – Nearly 100 actors and performers have volunteered their time and talents to create a spectacular community play to benefit Homeward Bound of Asheville. The extravaganza, called *Always Expect Miracles*, is the first production of Homeward Bound's newly-formed community performance project, Just Home in the Mountains (www.justhome.org) The production will be performed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, plus Saturday matinees, from Feb. 11 until March 6, at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 20 Oak Street in Asheville. Tickets are on sale now at the Pack Place Education, Arts, and Science Center (828-257-4500), with 100% of the proceeds going to benefit Homeward Bound of Asheville.

Always Expect Miracles, written by award-winning playwright Jules Corriere, is a mixture of stories gathered from residents of WNC and artfully woven into a compelling chronicle. Nearly 100 actors, from every segment of our community, will bring to life these true tales of colorful characters, civil rights leaders, famous ghosts, new neighbors and old timers. Homeward Bound hopes this play will empower people to look beyond their own neighborhood and have a better understanding of our community as a whole.

“Our intention is to bring people together,” said Homeward Bound Director Fran Harvey. “This is our signature fundraiser to help us in our mission to end the cycle of chronic homelessness. Our quest is to build community as we weave together the stories and lives of WNC residents. We know people here take pride in where they live. *Always Expect Miracles* gives the audience just that...pride in community.”

“After hearing many, many stories from local residents, we realized that Asheville is a place of transformation,” said Richard Geer, artistic director of Community Performance, Inc. and director of the play. “It's always been a place of healing and change.”

About Homeward Bound: The mission of Homeward Bound is to end the cycle of homelessness. Its staff and volunteers assist the many people who come through its A HOPE Day Center every day to become healthier and safer by addressing each individual's barriers to stable, permanent housing. Working together with the staff of A HOPE and the Room in the Inn women's shelter, Homeward Bound's Pathways to Permanent Housing program moves individuals from the streets and shelters into permanent housing. Pathways to Permanent Housing staff then assist in providing the services needed to enable these individuals to continue to be healthier and to stay in their homes.

MEDIA CONTACT

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Always Expect Miracles

First Congregational United Church of Christ, 20 Oak Street, Asheville
Thursday-Saturday, from Feb. 11 until March 6, 7:30 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 2:30 p.m.

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