



Volunteers of America®
Utah

435 W Bearcat Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
Tel: 801.363.9414
Fax: 801.355.3546
www.voaut.org

News Release

Press Conference
December 12, 2011

Contact: Michelle Templin (801) 363-9414 ext. 586
Cell: 801-828-5647 or michelle.templin@voaut.org

Press Conference to Announce New Transitional Living for Homeless Youth

On December 15th Volunteers of America, Utah will announce the purchase of a home in Salt Lake City to provide transitional housing for 14 homeless young men. This new home will meet a critical need in the community, helping to end the cycle of youth homelessness for young men. Over the past 5 years, Volunteers of America, has seen the number of homeless youth in Salt Lake County grow by more than 160%. Volunteers of America, Utah offers services to homeless youth through its existing Homeless Youth Resource Center by providing Street Outreach, a day-time Drop-In Center and Transitional Housing for young women. In the last fiscal year (July 1, 2010 –June 30, 2011) the agency served more than 1,040 homeless young people.

When: Thursday, December 15th
Time: 12:30 Press Conference (12:00 meet and greet),
1:10 tour current female house (718 S 600 E)
Where: 556 South 500 East in Salt Lake City
Speakers: Kathy Bray, President/CEO Volunteers of America, Utah
Pamela Atkinson, Community Advocate
Representatives from major funders
Formerly homeless VOA client interviews at 1:10 at current female house (718 S 600 E)

The existing transitional living facility for females provides housing for up to 7 young women for 18 months or until the young women turn 20 years old. The new young men's transitional home will house up to 14 young men ages 18-24 and will utilize the same program model used in the female facility. Programs at the home will include safe residential services, basic needs support, 24 hour supervision, use of the *Positive Youth Development* model, goal setting, monitoring of school progress, tutoring and employment services. Comprehensive case management services will help address social, emotional, physical and behavioral needs. Staff will also offer prevention planning to ensure that residents do not exit into homelessness and will provide after-care support to young men for an additional six months after they move out of the house.

To help fund this project, Volunteers of America received a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which required matching funds. Thanks to the generosity of John Netto & Rev. Catherine Putnam-Netto, the LGBT Community Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Utah, the B. W. Bastian Foundation, and other private donors, Volunteers of America has begun to match the grant. An additional \$890,000 still needs to be raised to complete this project. A matching fund gift program will be announced on Dec. 15th.

Volunteers of America, Utah is a national, non-profit, spiritually based organization providing local human services programs, and opportunities for individual and community involvement. In Utah, Volunteers of America operates ten+ programs, serving nearly 10,000 people yearly, in the areas of homeless outreach, homeless youth services, substance abuse detoxification and treatment, housing case management, substance abuse prevention, domestic violence counseling and volunteer senior services.

Volunteers of America, Utah’s Transition Home for Young Men – Summary

Homeless Youth Services

VOA’s Homeless Youth Resource Center has seen a 166% increase in homeless youth, in need of services over the past 5 years. Last fiscal year it helped 1,047 unduplicated youth, 80 percent of whom were from Utah. The majority of homeless youth suffer from verbal, physical and sexual trauma by those who are supposed to love and protect them. Parents and caretakers may be addicted to drugs, involved in criminal activity, incarcerated and/or abusive. Economic stress increases violence and substance use in families, resulting in more youth fleeing their homes. Other youth are kicked out of their homes, run away from the hurt and/or find themselves alone without resources. Of the youth surveyed: 75% experience physical and sexual abuse and 25% aged out of the foster care system. In addition, 42% of youth identify as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning) and report experiencing family rejection and being kicked out of their homes.

With the alarming increase in the number of homeless youth seeking help VOA looked to other experts and service agencies in the community and started *The Salt Lake County Taskforce to End Youth Homelessness*. The task force examined issues in prevention/discharge planning, emergency services and housing for this population. Based on this report, an effort to develop programming and resources to address these areas is crucial to the long-term plan to end youth homelessness in Salt Lake County. VOA knows it is important for the community to have a safety net for youth who end up on the street, so it identified the areas of emergency services and housing as the most pressing areas to address in its programming. A complete task force report is available at www.voaut.org.

The existing transitional living facility for females provides housing for up to 7 young women for 18 months or until the young women turn 20 years old. Based on client responses regarding programs and services offered through the Transition Home for Young Women, 22% were more likely to attend school; 52% were more likely to stay employed; and all youth in transitional housing receive employment support to foster employability and stable employment.

Transition Home for Young Men

With more than 10 years of experience operating a transitional home for young women, the agency went to work looking for an appropriate location for a new transition home for young men. In November 2011, VOA purchased a house located at 556 South 500 East in Salt Lake City, with a goal of having it renovated and available for homeless young men beginning in July 2012. Relocation assistance is being offered to current low-income residents.

The new young men’s transitional home will house up to 14 young men ages 18-24 and will utilize the same program model used in the female facility. Programs at the home will include safe residential services, basic needs support, 24 hour supervision, use of the *Positive Youth Development* model, goal setting, monitoring of school progress, tutoring and employment services. Comprehensive case management services will help address social, emotional, physical and behavioral needs. Staff will also offer prevention planning to ensure that residents do not exit into homelessness and will provide after-care support to young men for an additional six months after they move to their own apartment.

Anticipated Outcomes for Transition Home for Young Men

- Increased housing options for male youth experiencing homelessness
- Improved education levels
- Increased employment among transitional housing residents
- Increased self-sufficiency for youth

Campaign Goal for Transition Home for Young Men	\$2 Million
Acquisition	\$580,000
Construction/Renovation	\$400,000
Fixtures & Furnishings	\$80,000
Relocation of Current Residents	\$115,000
Operations (2 years)	\$825,000



UTAH

Volunteers of America is a national, non-profit, faith-based organization providing local human service programs and opportunities for individual and community involvement. The organization was founded in 1896 and is currently serving over 2 million people nationally throughout 44 states. In Utah, we serve more than 11,000 individuals annually throughout 7 counties statewide. We employ more than 150 paid staff, have an operating budget of over \$7 Million, and work with over 1,000 volunteers annually.

Mission

Volunteers of America, Utah is a ministry of service organized to reach out and uplift those in need and to provide opportunities to experience the joy of serving others.

Vision

To go where we are needed most and do what most needs doing; to seek out the needy and minister to their needs; to help those who cannot yet help themselves; to embrace and include the excluded and outcast; and to do these things with faith in God and humankind.

We provide the following programs:

Homelessness:

- Homeless Outreach Program
- Street Outreach to Homeless Youth
- Homeless Youth Resource Center
- Transition Home
- Housing Case Management
- Chronically Homeless Case Management

Substance Abuse:

- Adult Detoxification Facility
- The Center for Women & Children
- Treatment for Adults & Adolescents
- Day Treatment Program
- Prevention (Elementary & Middle School Programs)

Domestic Violence:

- Counseling for Victims and Perpetrators

Senior Services:

- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (Davis, Tooele, and Emery Counties)
- Foster Grandparent Program (Tooele, Emery, Carbon, Grand, and San Juan Counties)

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Salt Lake County Program Volunteers



Visit us online: www.voaut.org

Safety, Stability, Empowerment...

Campaign Initiatives

Transitional Home for Young Men

The home will serve approximately 28 males per year between the ages of 18-26 with 24/7 staffing. Up to 14 men will be housed at a time and receive residential services for up to two years. It is anticipated that the Transitional Home for Young Men will need approximately 12 FTEs, which will include a program manager, case manager, an education/employment specialist and youth advocates. The program will use the Positive Youth Development model, to provide participants a voice to help shape the program to ensure successful transitions to self-sufficiency.

The program will target participants who are current clients accessing services at the Homeless Youth Drop-in Center, as well as through referrals from the State Division of Child and Family Services, the Transition to Adult Living Network, and Salt Lake County Youth Services. Many of these community contacts are currently in place, and have stated the need for male transitional housing. Goals for the new program include increasing housing options for male youth experiencing homelessness; improved education levels of residents; increased employment opportunities for residents; and encourage increased self-sufficiency for youth.

Detoxification Center

Substance abuse and addiction, as a brain disease, typically lead individuals to disconnect from family and to engage in behaviors that are self-destructive, including criminal acts. According to local studies, it is estimated that 38,769 or 5.7 percent of Salt Lake County's population is in need of treatment services. The current capacity of the County System will accommodate 6,955 or just 18 percent of the estimated need. This means 31,814 county residents who are in need, will not receive alcohol/drug treatment services. VOA operates the only social model detoxification center, which is non-medical in nature, in Salt Lake County, and is the only provider of detoxification services to low income/indigent adults. The Adult Detoxification Center served 1,736 unduplicated clients who are alcohol/drug dependent during FY11. The Center processes more than 3,000 admissions per year, completing 3,821 admissions last year. About 99 percent of clients served in these programs are at or below 80 percent of median income for Utah.

The Adult Detoxification Center is licensed by the state of Utah and currently offers a 56-bed facility. VOA proposed renovating the current facility to add 10 - 12 beds, increase "personal space" for clients (a licensing requirement), update kitchen and restroom facilities and open new classroom spaces for educational and support groups. The renovation includes significant changes to the current intake area which will mitigate safety concerns for staff and clientele. The additional beds can accommodate more people, including veterans and those who are diverted from hospitals and jails. People who stay longer to work on self-sufficiency will have a separate sleeping area.

Homeless Youth Resource Center

The Homeless Youth Resource Center operates a Drop-In Center as the primary facility in Salt Lake County and the state of Utah to address the critical needs of homeless street youth ages 15-22. The major goal of the Drop-In Center is to help homeless youth become self-sufficient by assisting them in obtaining employment and/or education, shelter/housing and providing referrals for medical, mental health, and substance abuse programs. Supervision, case management and transportation assistance are available at the center. Last fiscal year, the Drop-in Center and Street Outreach served 1,039 unduplicated youth, 80 percent of whom are from Utah. Of the youth surveyed: 75 percent experience physical and sexual abuse and 25 percent aged out of foster care. We project to serve over 1,000 youth again this fiscal year because the economy continues to impact employment and street outreach efforts are successfully reaching more youth. Economic stress increases violence and substance use in families, resulting in more youth fleeing their homes.

The current Center is inadequate for the 50 youth who come each day. The proposed new building would be approximately 22,000 square feet and will accommodate all improvements as outlined. Ideally, the facility will be located near the existing Drop-In Center so youth are likely to transition more easily than if the new facility was located in a different neighborhood. It will be within walking distance from main transportation hubs, providing easy access to community services as well. Anticipated outcomes include: preventing homeless youth from becoming homeless adults; decreasing the number of youth sleeping on the streets in Salt Lake County; Increasing safety and efficiency in meeting basic needs of hunger, hygiene and warmth; and increasing youth self-sufficiency through education, employment and housing opportunities.



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Matching Gift Challenge- \$100,000

Matching Grant Information

We have received two incredibly generous donations to support the Transitional Home for Young Men; \$50,000 from the B. W. Bastian Foundation and \$50,000 LGBT Community Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Utah. The two foundations have joined their gifts to provide a \$100,000 matching grant challenge to the community. They will match dollar for dollar up to \$100,000 of community donations that go to support the project.

Why Support the Project?

"The LGBT community is committed to the health and wellbeing of all of our young people. No child should be without a loving, nurturing environment, including the 42% of homeless youth who are gay, lesbian and transgendered. We are thrilled to be a part of this project, which will give all kids a place to call home and receive the support they need and every child deserves." - **John Barabino**, Chair, LGBT Community Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Utah.

"First, I believe everyone should at least have a chance at life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Homeless youth who are forced to live on the street don't have that chance. I believe we should try to give them that chance. By neglecting the homeless problems of our youth, we are pushing their problems forward. Their lives will be less productive if they remain homeless and on the street. With this project we can offer them hope and a way to change their lives.

The fact that over 40% of the homeless youth are on the street because they are "not straight" sickens me. I believe the LGBTQ community owes it to these kids to show them there is love for them. We also need to educate the parents and families of these kids to the truth so that fewer and fewer of these kids end up homeless. Above all, I believe the LGBTQ community needs to show society as a whole that we believe in happiness and equality for EVERYONE and not just gay people." - **Bruce Bastian**, B. W. Bastian Foundation

How to Meet the Challenge

Individuals can go to our website www.voaut.org to make a donation and pledge their support. Individuals can donate by mail by sending their donations to Volunteers of America, Utah, 435 West Bearcat Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84115 or by phone at 801-363-9414 ext. 585.



Safety, Stability, Empowerment

UTAH

Young Men's Transition Home Pledge Form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Birthday ___/___/___

Preferred address Organization Home *Pledge reminders will be sent to your preferred address.

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Business Phone: () _____

E-mail _____

Organization Name _____ Title _____

Volunteers of America, Utah does not sell or distribute names to other organizations

Visionary Circle **\$50,000 donation (can be paid over 5 years)**

Founders' Circle **\$20,000 donation (can be paid over 5 years)**

Provider of Hope **\$5,000 donation (can be paid over 5 years)**

Sustaining Partner **Contribute \$_____ per year for _____ years.**

Friend of the Agency **Contribute \$_____ per month for _____ months.**

Valued Supporter **One Time Gift = _____**

Volunteers of America, Utah is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Payment Information

My check is enclosed. I would like my gift to be anonymous.

Please charge my (circle one) American Express Visa MasterCard Discover Card

Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Please Bill/Charge me* One Time Monthly Annually

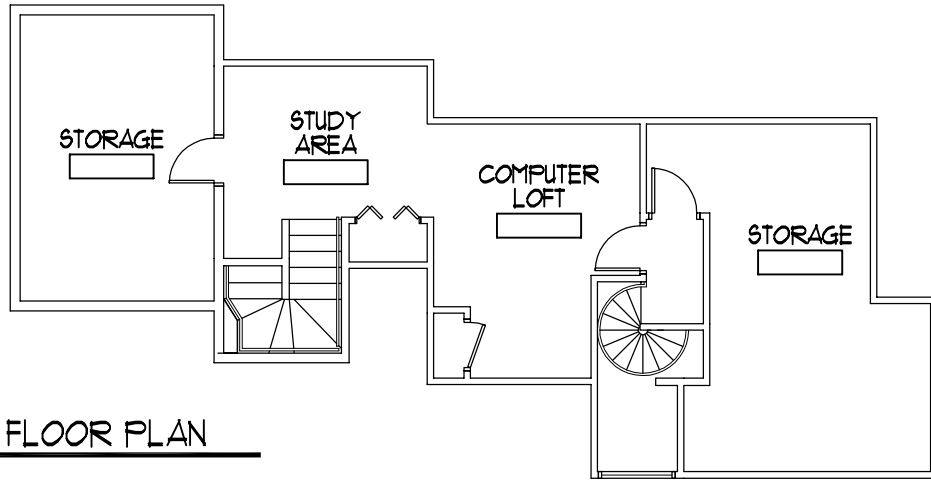
I would like to fulfill my pledge with stocks or other securities.

My company will match my gift. Company name: _____

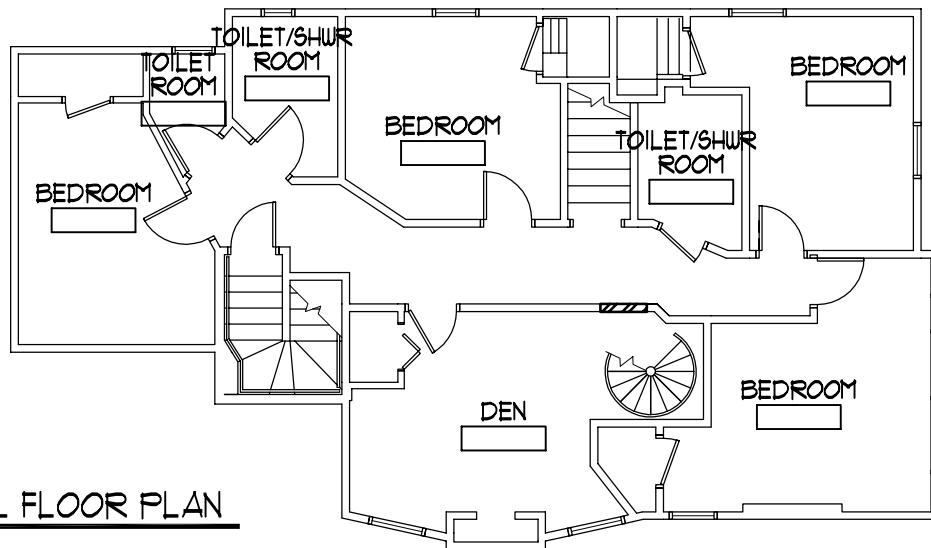
I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me.

I am interested in planned giving opportunities. Please contact me.

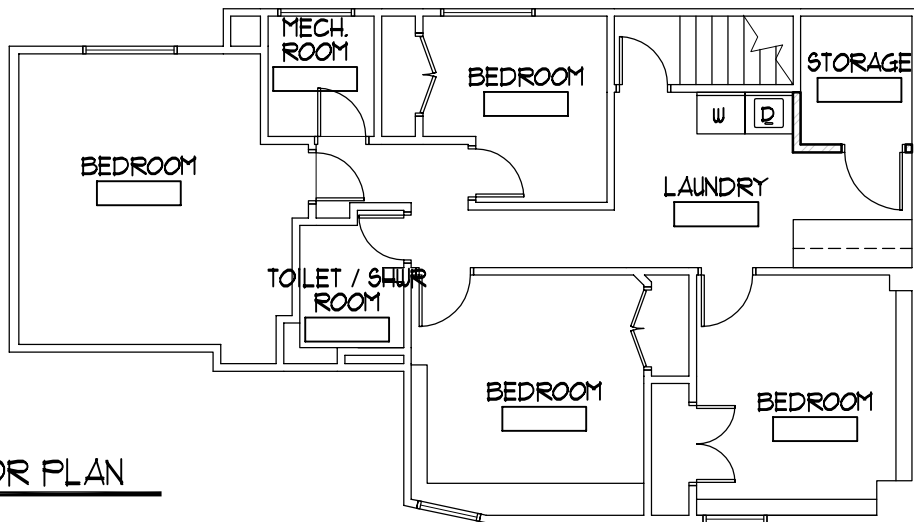
I would like to take a tour or learn more about Volunteers of America, Utah.



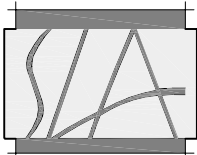
 THIRD LEVEL FLOOR PLAN
1"=10'-0"



 SECOND LEVEL FLOOR PLAN
1"=10'-0"



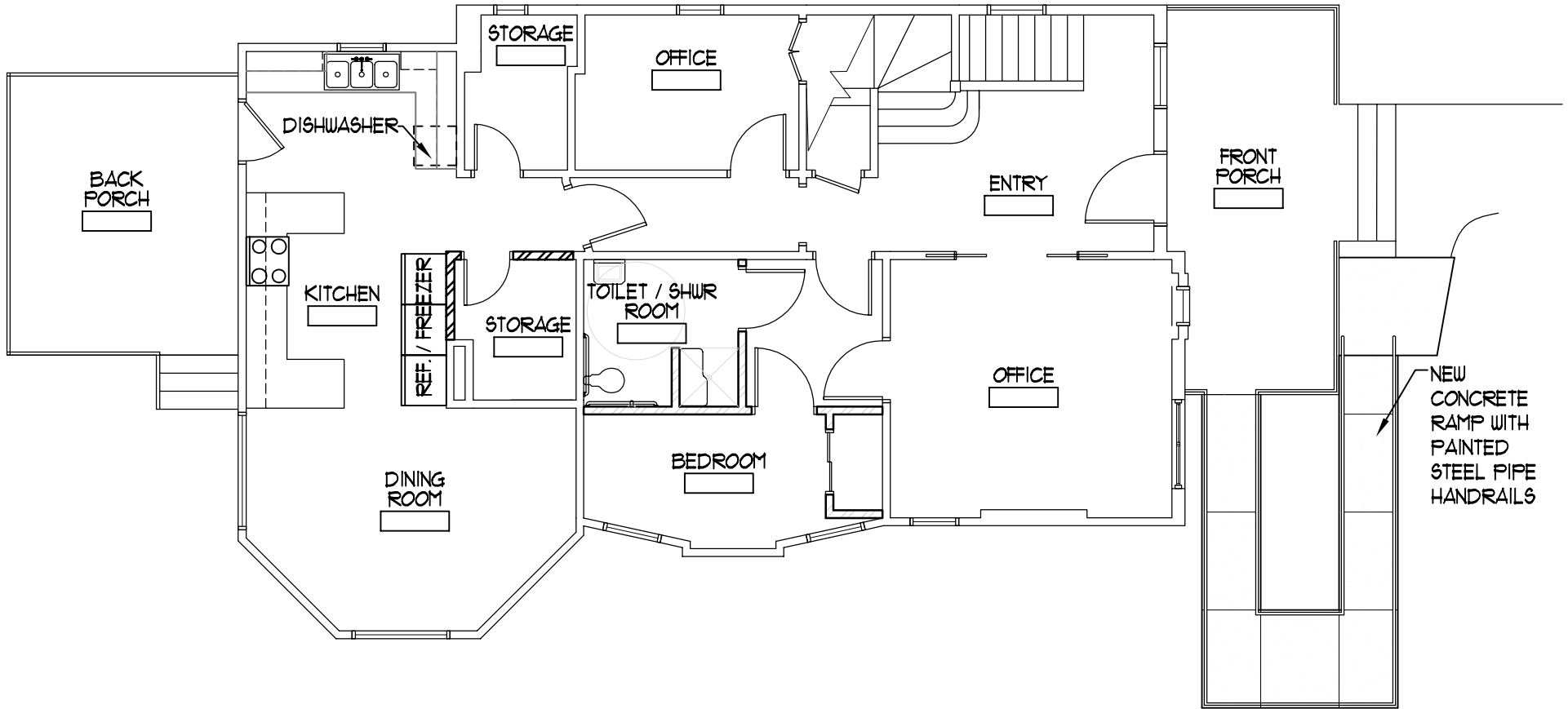
 BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
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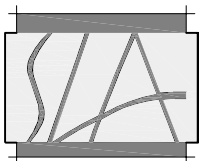
VOA Young Men's Transitional Housing

556 South 500 East
SLC

**Basement,
Second and Third Level
Schematic Floor Plans**




MAIN LEVEL FLOOR PLAN
 1/8" = 1'-0"



VOA Young Men's Transitional Housing
 556 South 500 East
 SLC

**Schematic Main Level
 Floor Plan**