

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2008

From Homelessness to the Pinnacle of Academia

Dr. Jeremy Reynolds, author, speaker, and writer, is the founder and CEO of the New Mexico-based Joy Junction, Inc., which is one of the few non-profit faith based organizations in the United States totally dedicated to serving homeless families.

Reynolds has just authored “The Face Of Homelessness,” to be released by Theatron Books in April 2008.

Joy Junction, New Mexico’s largest emergency homeless shelter, was founded in 1986 by Reynolds, who was homeless himself in 1982. Reynolds earned his Ph.D. in intercultural education from Biola University in 2006. His plight and transition are an inspirational story.

Reynolds’ doctoral dissertation was an in-depth study of how the media portray the issue of homelessness.

Commenting on his doctoral research, Reynolds said, “I found that there has been a real change in the last 20 or so years in the way the homeless are shown in the media. It was not what I expected at all.”

Reynolds also earned an undergraduate degree with a focus on journalism from the University of New Mexico, and a master’s degree in communication. His master’s thesis looked at how television news portrays the religious right.

Currently, Joy Junction is helping over 300 people every night and serving more than 100,000 meals a year. The shelter gives a “Hand-Up not a Hand Out,” and is noted for getting families back on their feet through a successful faith-based life recovery program.

Joy Junction’s efforts are increasingly needed, with its client base doubling in the last four years. According to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, approximately 3.5 million people nationally, 1.35 million of them children, are likely to experience homelessness in a given year. This disturbing figure represents more than the population of the city of Chicago (2,900,000).

Reynolds previously authored “Homeless in The City: A Call To Service,” published by Theatron Books in 2007, “Homeless Culture and The Media,” published by Cambria Press in 2006, and “The Walking Wounded” published by Huntington House in 1996. He was also a contributor to “Reading the Homeless,” published by Praeger in 1999.

Reynolds is now available for interviews.

For Donations please direct to:

Joy Junction:
Dept.91361
P.O. Box 27693
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Contact:

Larry Garrison
(805) 370-3630
gpnews@aol.com

NEWS RELEASE FROM JOY JUNCTION

January 24, 2008

With Increased Need and Aging Buildings, Joy Junction Faces Giving Decline

With final figures for the 2007 seasonal giving season now in, Joy Junction officials are hunkering down to see if they can weather a serious decline in giving.

While volunteers turned out in force, final Dec. 2007 cash donations to the shelter turned out to be only about 80 percent of what they were in Dec. 2006. That could spell serious trouble ahead for the more than two-decade-old ministry.

Joy Junction Founder and CEO Dr. Jeremy Reynolds said with aging buildings that need more and more maintenance, and an ever increasing number of people looking for assistance from the well known faith-based ministry, he is still pleading with community members who can, to step forward and give.

“We have an extremely generous community,” Reynolds said. “In fact, we had 137 more donors last month than in December 2006,” Reynolds said. “The problem is that like everyone else, they also face a decrease in their disposable income. Especially with rising gas prices, as well as a variety of other factors, living is getting harder and harder for everyone.”

Reynolds said that while helping over 300 people each night, about double the number of people it assisted about four years ago, Joy Junction’s Dec. 2007 income was about 20 percent less than in Dec. 2006.

Reynolds said he is hoping that people’s holiday giving spirit will continue on. There’s a reason for that, he said. “Need takes no holiday. Our doors are open 365 days a year.”

He added, “With so many desperate, hurting people in our community, we **MUST** maintain and even think about increasing our current level of service.”

Please send donations to:

Joy Junction:
Dept.91361
P.O. Box 27693
Albuquerque, NM 87125