

NOVA joins Bethany House in celebrating completion of the renovation of its shelter for women who are the victims of domestic violence. NOVA pledged **a large portion** of its Marie Pinho fund for the work. NOVA's Judy Christofferson, who proposed the fund-raising project to the community, attended the shelter's ribbon-cutting ceremony July 14, and accepted a plaque recognizing NOVA's contribution from Brad Womble, president of the Bethany House Board.

Bethany House worked through numerous setbacks, including delayed approval of its building plan, to realize its 10-year dream. Thanks to Judy, NOVA and Bethany House remained in communication until plans were approved, and NOVA was able to award its pledged funds.

The new home is indeed impressive. Judy, who had seen the home before renovation was especially impressed. Instead of four bedrooms, there are seven. Instead of one bathroom, there are four. Instead of one kitchen, there are two. One of the rooms and bathrooms and entrances is handicapped-accessible. There is a large fenced yard. All of the rooms have individual locks. A plaque that will be hung inside thanks both Marie Pinho and NOVA, along with contractors and others who contributed to the project.

Bethany House has operated from a separate rental during renovation. Another organization is now furnishing the house, and residents are expected to move back in a few weeks.

Before the ribbon-cutting, Brad told a story of a woman and her two children, 14 and 3, who landed at Bethany House, the first shelter that had room for them on their drive from Denver. When the 3-year-old refused to get back in the car to go shopping, crying that she didn't want to move any more, her mother was able to say, "We are home now."

According to Brad, Bethany House is now looking for three acres of land on which to build another facility. The goal is to expand "until we no longer have to say no," when women call, he said.

We think Marie would be proud to have her name on this project.

