

# Summit House helps to break spiraling criminal cycle

■ The home provides rehabilitation for convicted mothers and their children.

BY VICTORIA ECKENRODE  
STAFF WRITER

Children of parents in jail are more likely to become criminals themselves one day.

Summit House of Raleigh works to

break that cycle by providing a home for mothers convicted of nonviolent offenses and their children.

"If I hadn't come here, my child would have went through some of the same things I went through, like foster care and alcoholism in the family," said one Summit House resident who asked that her name not be used.

The women at Summit House go there to receive treatment and rehabilitation. Sandy Dixon, who is the development and community relations associate for

Summit House, said the program kept families together. "Mothers work at getting their GED, receiving substance-abuse counseling and learning parenting skills," she said.

The Summit House opened over a year ago. The General Assembly saw the success the program had in Greensboro and granted the funds needed to open in Raleigh and Charlotte.

The resident also said she chose to live at Summit House rather than go to prison because she did not want her son to enter

foster care. She was convicted of violating her DWI probation by testing positive for her drug test. Now she attends Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous and attends classes at Wake Technical Community College.

Summit House officials are looking for people to participate in its new Family Support Volunteer Program. Summit House Executive Director Beth McAllister said volunteers performed basic tasks such as cooking meals, providing child care and planning leisure

time for the families.

"Volunteers do incredible things for the house," McAllister said. "They serve as role models for these women and many of them come from dysfunctional families and grew up without role models."

Dixon said volunteers had flexible schedules and students could work around their class schedules.

Those interested in becoming a volunteer for Summit House may schedule an interview by calling Sandy Dixon at (919) 755-0733.



## IN THE NEWS

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### Virginia Military Institute refuses to let in women

RICHMOND — Virginia Military Institute refuses to accept applications from women despite a Supreme Court rejection of its male-only admissions policy as unconstitutional, the Justice Department says.

The department asked the 4th U.S. Court of Appeals in Richmond on Tuesday to return the case to a federal court in Roanoke for an injunction barring the state-supported school "from continuing its exclusionary practices."

VMI spokesman Mike Strickler said VMI had sent letters to female applicants explaining that VMI had not made a decision on coeducation pending a four-day Board of Visitors meeting that ends Sept. 21.

"If the decision is made that we will be coed, we will immediately send them all the information they will need," he said. "We're not dragging our feet. We're moving along as scheduled. We have a hard time understanding this."

Strickler said VMI had received about 50 inquiries from women.

Virginia Attorney General James S. Gilmore III said the timing of the government's request made no sense. "If what the Justice Department did today were made into a movie, they'd have to call it 'Dumb and Dumber,'" he said.

But the American Civil Liberties Union praised the Justice Department's action. "For an institution that prides itself for instilling a sense of honor in its students, VMI has acted most dishonorably," said Sara Mandelbaum, a staff attorney with the ACLU's Women's Rights Project.

After more than six years of litigation and more than two months after the Supreme Court's decision, "VMI's admissions office continues doing business as usual — by not accepting applications from women," Assistant Attorney General Deval L. Patrick said.

The Justice Department said it went to court after informal efforts to resolve the matter with the school were unsuccessful.

### Two more men convicted in assassination of Rabin

TEL AVIV, Israel — Two accomplices helped plot the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, an Israeli court ruled Wednesday, convicting the avowed assassin's brother and friend for conspiracy.

Yigal Amir is already serving a life sentence for the Nov. 4 murder at a Tel Aviv peace rally.

He was convicted of conspiracy Wednesday in Tel Aviv District Court, along with his brother, Hagai, and their friend, Dror Adani.

The three will be sentenced Oct. 3. They face a maximum of 29 years in prison.

Yigal Amir smiled as Judge Amnon Strasnov read the three-judge panel's verdict finding "all three guilty of all the charges against them."

Defense lawyers said they would appeal the convictions to Israel's Supreme Court.

Adani's lawyer, Zion Amir, said the verdict was "not surprising," but added that the judges based their findings "more on public opinion than the law."

Yigal Amir, a religiously observant Jew and former law student, says he shot Rabin to stop the prime minister from giving "land God promised to the Jews" to the Palestinians.

### Hortense wreaks havoc, kills 12 in Caribbean

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Hurricane Hortense strengthened today over open waters as it moved away from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Hortense dumped up to 20 inches of rain and left at least 12 people dead in the area.

The lightly populated Turks and Caicos Islands were struck today by Hortense, which is heading northwest at 11 mph packing 105 mph winds and heavy rains.

The central Bahamas were expected to be hit by up to 10 inches of rain later today.

Those rains pounded Puerto Rico with near-record amounts on Tuesday, flooding streets and highways and sending rivers surging over their banks.

Hortense cut water and electricity to most of Puerto Rico's 3.6 million people, destroyed more than 650 homes and stranded hundreds of cars in chest-high water in San Juan, the capital.

Two-thirds of the island remained without water and power today.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami cited a slight chance that the hurricane would cross the Bahamas and come within 65 miles of West Palm Beach and Fort Pierce on Florida's east coast Friday.

But forecasters think it's more likely a weather trough in the mid-Atlantic states will keep the hurricane offshore, pushing the storm further north and possibly targeting the Northeast and New England by Sunday.

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