



**For Immediate Release:**

**SIERRA HOUSE HONORED AS 2013 TOP-RATED NONPROFIT**

*New GreatNonprofits.org Award is Based on Positive Online Reviews*

East Orange, NJ (July 18, 2013) – Sierra House, Inc. announced today that it has been honored with a prestigious 2013 Top-Rated Award by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews about nonprofit organizations.

“We are excited to be named a Top-Rated 2013 Nonprofit,” says Keely Freeman, Executive Director. We are proud of the housing, educational support, job skills, counseling, life skills and critical social services that Sierra House provides have helped many homeless young women and mothers achieve great things! This year’s accomplishments this year, include:

- 2 residents are enrolled in college or trade school and 3 residents are enrolled in GED programs
- 1 former resident will be starting college this summer
- 8 residents have obtained employment
- 2 current and 2 former residents are working while going to college
- 1 resident regained custody of her child
- 6 residents were reconnected with family members and went to live with them
- 3 residents transitioned into their own apartments

The Top-Rated Nonprofit award was based on the large number of positive reviews that Sierra House received – reviews written by volunteers, donors and clients. People posted their personal experience with the nonprofit. For example, one person wrote, “Being at Sierra House I realized that I am a strong, independent, loving person who has a good head on her shoulders. I will forever be grateful for my Sierra House experience.

While the Top-Rated Awards run through the end of October, Sierra House was part of the inaugural group to qualify for the year. “Savvy donors want to see the impact of their donations more than ever,” said Perla Ni, CEO of GreatNonprofits, “People with direct experience in Social Work have voted that the organization is making a real difference.”

Being on the Top-Rated list gives donors and volunteers more confidence that this is a credible organization. The reviews by volunteers, clients and other donors show the on-the-ground results of this nonprofit. This award is a form of recognition by the community.

**ABOUT SIERRA HOUSE**

Founded in 2002, the mission of the Sierra House Founders is to improve the prospects for individual achievement for at-risk youth and young adults, thereby contributing to the long-term stability of our community. In 2008, Sierra House was renovated and opened its transitional shelter in East Orange, New Jersey: a 10-bedroom facility, including a child’s play room, two kitchens, and three community spaces. The Sierra House Transitional Program is a structured two-year program that provides housing, counseling and other critical social services to homeless young women and mothers, between the ages of 18 and 25, who are victims of abuse, neglect or aging out of the foster care system. For more information, visit our website: [www.sierrahouse.org](http://www.sierrahouse.org)

**About GreatNonprofits**

GreatNonprofits is the leading site for donors and volunteers to find reviews and ratings of nonprofits. Reviews on the site influence 30 million donation decisions a year. [www.greatnonprofits.org](http://www.greatnonprofits.org)

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