



Supporting People with Disabilities since 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Community Options, Inc. Opens New Group Home in Austin, Texas

PRINCETON, NJ- Community Options Inc. (COI), a nonprofit organization that strives to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities, is celebrating the opening of a new group home in Austin, Texas. The first resident is set to move in on January 5, 2013.

COI would like to welcome Joelle Bart as the program manager for the new home. Ms. Bart brings with her over fifteen years of experience working with individuals with disabilities. She also has extensive knowledge of Medicaid Waiver programs in Texas. Ms. Bart has a B.A. from Texas State University and a Masters of Arts in Human Services from St. Edwards University. Ms. Bart will be implemental in the success of this new group home in Texas.

The mission of Community Options, Inc. is to develop housing and employment supports for people with disabilities. The agency's philosophy is that all persons, regardless of their level of disability, can live and work in the community with dignity, choice, and self-determination. The opening of this home not only directly and positively affects the future residents, it also gives people an opportunity to pay greater attention to both the needs and potential of individuals with disabilities.

Currently, COI operates thirty-six group homes throughout the state of Texas. The organization is celebrating twenty years in Texas and held its annual conference in San Antonio this past November. Community Options is excited to be in the Austin area, providing people with disabilities an alternate choice to institutions, while keeping their well-being and success in mind.

This group home is being opened at a notable time, as the annual COI fundraiser is fast approaching! The Annual Cupid's Chase 5K Run happens in 21 cities throughout eight states on February 9, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. The race locations in Texas for 2013 will be Corpus Christi at Brewster Street Ice House, Dallas at Bachman Lake, El Paso at Old Mesilla Plaza, and San Antonio at Southside Lions Park East. This race means more than funding to COI; Cupid's Chase has always served to bring people together, boost support for the cause and raise awareness for their mission!

*Community Options Inc. is a national nonprofit organization incorporated in 1989 and headquartered in Princeton, New Jersey. The agency provides housing and employment supports to people with disabilities in eight states: Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. [www.comop.org](http://www.comop.org)*

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please call (609) 352-5280 or e-mail Kathryn at Kathryn.Sampson@comop.org.