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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 29, 2006

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## Senator Crapo Helps Cut the Ribbon on the New FACES Facility

*New center will help victims of child abuse, domestic violence and adult sexual assault*

(Boise, ID) – For the first time in Idaho history, the Gem State’s largest population center now has a one-stop assistance center available to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, and adult sexual assault. Today, Idaho Senator Mike Crapo joined Ada County Commissioners, the Ada County Prosecutor, and other Treasure Valley dignitaries and officials in cutting the ribbon on the Ada County Family Advocacy Center & Education Services (FACES) facility. Located at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Myrtle Streets in downtown Boise, the new \$1.4 million project combines the resources of city, county, and state agencies, local hospitals, and various victim advocacy groups to provide a comprehensive lineup of services for victims.

Up until now, victims of abuse were faced with the challenge of navigating their way through various services and agencies located in offices all across Ada County. By joining forces, all partnering agencies have centrally located their programs in the new FACES facility to better serve crime and abuse victims during a time in their life when they need help the most.

“Women, and often children, are attacked on average every nine seconds in our country. To end abuse we need more examples of what we have today with the FACES Center—a one-stop facility offering response, assistance, and education. We must continue to be vigilant to provide the resources needed at the local, state, and federal levels to stop the threat of domestic violence and abuse.”

A \$1 million federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant awarded to Ada County last year played an integral part in making FACES a reality. Idaho Senator Mike Crapo championed the project on Capitol Hill and helped win approval for Ada County's grant request. The project would not have come together as quickly as it did had Ada County not received Senator Crapo's assistance.

"This will be a one-stop facility unique to Idaho. By taking a victim-centered approach to delivering needed services, we'll be able to offer the quickest response, treatment, counseling, and prosecution services relating to domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault cases," said Ada County Commissioner Judy Peavey-Derr who also currently serves on the FACES Board of Directors.

Committed to the project, and realizing the positive impact it will have on our community, Ada County entered into a lease-to-purchase agreement with the property owner, Boise-based OAAS LANEY LLC. In the agreement, OAAS LANEY agreed to contribute \$1 million to retrofit the old warehouse space into usable office space. Ada County put an additional \$600,000 toward the new construction and remodeling effort.

Ada County Commissioner Fred Tilman said, "This is another fine example of a public-private partnership that just makes good business sense. We found great partners in OAAS LANEY and their commitment to remodeling this easily accessible piece of prime downtown real estate. The private firm covered the \$1 million bill to retrofit the old warehouse into usable office space – that's money that didn't come from Ada County's tax roll. In turn, OAAS LANEY found a great tenant, and more than likely, a future buyer for the property. It's a good deal for everyone involved."

Oversight for the FACES facility will come from the Ada County Prosecutor's Office. FACES Executive Director, Kevin McTeague, will oversee and coordinate the center's day-to-day operations that involve a wide range of medical services, counseling, legal assistance, and other treatment programs for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault crimes. Those programs are offered on the facility's 17,000 square foot main floor. An additional 24,000 square feet of space will also be used for various other purposes on the building's lower level.

"It has been an honor to work together with my colleagues on this project," said Ada County Prosecuting Attorney Greg Bower. "Now that we have opened the doors on this new, innovative facility, I am confident we'll be able to greatly enhance the service we, and several other agencies, provide to crime victims. It's been a long time in the works and to see it finally completed brings a great sense of accomplishment to everyone involved."

Agencies offering their services to victims at the FACES facility include county and city prosecuting and law enforcement agencies, victim-witness coordinators, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and the St. Luke's Children's Hospital Child at Risk Evaluation Services, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, and local victim advocacy groups.

"Not only will the new FACES facility enhance the service to abuse and sexual assault victims, it will also greatly improve the relationships and effectiveness between the partnering agencies. I think they all work with the same goal in mind – to serve the victim. By putting them all under the same roof, I think everyone will have a better understanding of how each agency works and how they can perhaps fill the gaps and pickup where some agency missions leave off," said Ada County Commissioner and Chairman of the Board Rick Yzaguirre.

The FACES Board of Directors and all partnering agencies would like to formally thank the numerous individuals and businesses that have so generously donated their time, materials, and money to the project. "A call to action was issued to the community and the community responded," said Ada County Prosecutor Greg Bower. "Their generous donations to this project are once again proof of why Ada County is a great place we can all call home."

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