



***Restoring the Dignity
of the Human Spirit***

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Media Alert

Benanav Rolls Up Sleeves to Help Torture Survivors

St. Paul City Council member volunteers to paint new St. Paul healing center.

St. Paul City Council member Jay Benanav, Ward 4, is pitching in to help the Minnesota-based Center for Victims of Torture complete work on its new St. Paul healing center. He will join more than 25 area volunteers painting the interior of the renovated house in the Selby-Dale neighborhood.

The center, which is expected to open in February 2004, will provide additional services to torture survivors living in the St. Paul area. CVT provides clients with comprehensive rehabilitative care, including psychological and medical care, social services and physical and massage therapy.

Minnesota is home to as many as 30,000 torture survivors.

At the center's groundbreaking in May, Councilman Benanav said, "It makes me proud to be a Minnesotan in times like this. Minnesota and St. Paul are leading the nation to help people rebuild their lives."

Project coordinator Tait Danielson estimates that the volunteers, including area college students and church congregations, are contributing about \$10,000 in labor.

CVT still needs to raise about \$100,000 of the \$1.3 million project budget.

Who: Jay Benanav and 25 area volunteers

What: Painting the interior of CVT's new St. Paul healing center

Where: 649 Dayton Ave, St. Paul

When: Saturday, November 22

The Center for Victims of Torture seeks to heal the wounds of torture on individuals, their families and their communities and to stop torture worldwide.