

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2008

For Information, Contact:
Debbie Franklin, Executive Director
Hilman House, Inc.
(318) 424-1715
hilmanhouse@comcast.net
Cindy Turek, Executive Director,
WHO Foundation, 972-458-0601

**Cystic Fibrosis Patients Now Have Greater Resource in
Shreveport's Hilman House**

\$20,000 Grant Awarded For Programs Supporting Terminally Ill Patients, Families

SHREVEPORT, LA—When Cystic Fibrosis strikes, families in Shreveport have a home-like support resource at the ready, **Hilman House**. **Hilman** relies on community donations to fuel its programs for children and adults alike, and now the organization has new funding to continue its support of individuals battling this incurable disease.

Heeding the call to support programs that provide nutritional supplements to malnourished patients and computers for hospitalized students, as well as funds that help with transplants, medical bills and counseling, the **WHO Foundation** has jumped in to help **Hilman House**. With a \$20,000 grant from **WHO (Women Helping Others®)**, **Hilman** is even better fortified to serve those affected by cystic fibrosis.

Executive Director Debbie Franklin also serves the house residents by visiting them during hospitalization. “We take food from our pantry, movies, books, toys and birthday gifts to make them feel at home. We also help by picking up their prescriptions and laundering their clothes because the day-to-day needs of cystic fibrosis patients can be overwhelming to families.”

Hilman House serves the needs of patients and their families affected by this incurable genetic disease, which strikes nearly 30,000 people in the United States each year. Patients endure a demanding regimen of respiratory and antibiotic therapy, resulting in frequent and lengthy hospital stays. With treatment costs that vary from \$10,000 to \$250,000 per year, **Hilman** serves a very important cause.

Franklin adds, “As the disease progresses and more time is spent in the hospital, it is important for families to have continuity. While we are looking for a cure [for cystic fibrosis], it is our mission to make life as normal as we can for both the children and their families.”

Cindy Turek, Executive Director of The WHO Foundation, and several BeautiControl Independent Consultants will be at Hillman House on Thursday, October 16, for the check presentation.

#

*The **WHO (Women Helping Others®) Foundation** encourages women to make a profound difference in the lives of less fortunate women and children within their communities. Since its inception, the **WHO Foundation** has touched the lives of more than 350,000 women and children in need by awarding grants in excess of \$3.5 million to more than 325 charities. To learn more about the **WHO Foundation**, call 800-WHO-4-ONE (800-946-4663) or visit www.whofoundation.org.*

***Hilman House** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization serving the families of patients receiving treatment at the Shreveport Cystic Fibrosis Center. Since 1998, the mission of **Hilman House** has been to provide a temporary home-like residence free of charge to cystic fibrosis patients and their families. Each year, **Hilman** is home to as many as 400 individuals from Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and Mississippi of varying socio-economic status, race and ethnicity. For more information on **Hilman House**, please call Executive Director Debbie Franklin at (318) 424-1715.*