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Contact: Marcia Johnson, Owner/Operator
Housewarmers of Lawton
580-647-2736

Greeting Lawton's New Residents Is Their Mission

Longtime Lawton residents Marcia and Malcolm Johnson are opening *Housewarmers of Lawton*, a home greeting service which welcomes new residents to the area and introduces them to the best local merchants and professionals. Each new resident is personally visited and presented with a lovely *Housewarmers* Gift Bag, filled with goodies and surprises from Lawton/Ft. Sill-area businesses, as well as unique *Housewarmers* gift certificates.

Malcolm, born and raised in Lawton, is a former Lawton High School and TCU basketball star. He returned to Lawton after graduation and has worked for several local businesses to gain firsthand business experience. Marcia has lived in the Lawton area for over 7 years, after attending Cameron University. Her experience includes an administrative career in banking and government services. "We are starting this business because Lawton/Ft. Sill is growing at a rate of over 200 households per month," said Marcia. We are excited about the opportunity to help make our community a better place to live."

Housewarmers, Inc. is a young, fast-growing company based in Northeast Texas, which awards franchises to qualified operators in select communities, which meet its criteria for growth and business viability. Kerry Johnson, President of Housewarmers, II, LLC, said, "We operate in over 50 cities in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Marcia and Malcolm bring an innate understanding of the community, along with the business experience and commitment to be very

6500 Greenville Avenue ■ Suite 446 ■ Dallas, TX 75206
214.329.4267
www.housewarmerscorp.com



successful. The new residents of Lawton, as well as its innovative merchants, will be pleased with the value that Housewarmers of Lawton will offer them.”

Malcolm said he was attracted to Housewarmers because of his desire to retain the closeness and sense of community, which characterized small town life years ago. “I remember from my childhood how we all had family in town to lean on and learn from and spend time with,” she said. “But as communities grow and people become more isolated, Marcia and I have become increasingly concerned that new residents not get lost in the numbers. People still care about each other here in southwest Oklahoma and this business will help people get to know one other. We are starting this business because Lawton is a great community to call home and people moving in need a friendly welcome and a fast start in learning about the good things and good folks here.”

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