



NEWS RELEASE

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<http://www.johnsondirect.com/>

Media Contact: Angela Asmus or
Denise Harden
Office Phone: 800.710.2750
Fax: 262.782.2751
e-mail: angela@johnsondirect.com
denise@johnsondirect.com
Address: 250 N. Sunnyslope Rd.
Suite 203
Brookfield, WI 53005

SUPPORTING TEENS A PRIMARY FOCUS FOR ROSALIE MANOR 100-Year-Old Milwaukee Agency Offers Relevant Programs for Teen Parents and Their Families

Milwaukee, Wis. (September 4, 2008) - Rosalie Manor, the Milwaukee agency founded a century ago by the Misericordia Sisters as a refuge for unwed, pregnant women, is today recognized as a local leader in the fields of pregnancy prevention and the promotion of positive parenting and healthy marriages.

When founded in 1908, the main emphasis of the outreach was on the health and safety of mother and child. But in recent years, the need for fatherhood involvement, job training and parenting skills has led Rosalie Manor to expand its services to serve the entire family: mother, father, child, and in many cases, the teen parents' families.

Equipping Teens with Essential Skills

Created in 2005, **Supporting Teen Families** provides intensive, family-centered services to pregnant and parenting teens and their families throughout the metro Milwaukee area. The goal of the program is to empower teens to develop the assets they need to form safe, healthy families and avoid the cycle of repeat teen pregnancies.

"Teen pregnancy involves much more than the nine months it takes to have a child," according to Dawn Groshek, Director of Development of Rosalie Manor. "There are so many issues to address, from developing parental skills to helping the teen parent find and a keep a job. By

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expanding our services, we help the parents gain confidence and develop responsibility, which in turn, increases the child's chances of being raised in a safe and stable home."

Among the range of services: childbirth education classes, home visits, support with school, job coaching, housing location resources, mentoring, child care referrals and paternity and child support advocacy.

Today's Dads Addresses Vital Role of Fatherhood

Today's Dads was created by Rosalie Manor in 2001 to bring teen fathers into the parenting process. Research has shown that without a father's involvement, a child is at substantially higher risk for gang involvement, violence and repeating the cycle of teen pregnancy. The program helps them become emotionally and financially responsible, as well as nurturing dads who will be actively and permanently involved in the lives of their children.

Today's Dads provides one-on-one case management, as well as group programs. Trained case managers offer guidance and support to teen fathers in the following areas: parenting support and education, basic job training, assistance with paternity filing, improving communication and social skills, goal setting and anger management.

The program has had an undeniable impact, according to one teen father:

"Rosalie Manor helped me stay in my son's life. Being in the program helped me look at life differently. I'm headed in a positive direction."

Rosalie Manor, located at 4803 W. Burleigh Street, is a non-profit social services agency that has served Milwaukee area youth and families for 100 years. For further information about Rosalie Manor, visit www.rosaliemanor.org or call Dawn Groshek, Director of Development, at 414-449-2868, ext. 202.

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