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Tough Economy Means Tougher Times for Teen Moms
Local Agency Provides Services and Support at a Crucial Time

Milwaukee, Wis. - July 29, 2008 - With gas prices at record highs and a slowing economy, most Americans are feeling the pressure to keep up with their financial obligations. But perhaps those hardest hit are unwed teenage mothers. The struggles to stay in school, learn parenting skills, find a job and arrange childcare add up to a heavy burden on young mothers. According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, nearly 80% of fathers of children born to teen mothers do not marry the child's mother. Most of these fathers pay less than \$800 annually in child support.

Rosalie Manor Community & Family Services, a Milwaukee agency which has served the city for 100 years, has seen the overwhelming challenges that their young clients face.

“The combination of poverty, isolation from peers, lack of family support and limited educational and earning opportunities can make teen moms feel very much alone at a time when they need encouragement most,” says Dawn Groshek, Director of Development of Rosalie Manor. “That’s where our services can make a positive impact.”

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Full-Circle Support for Young Families

Founded a century ago by the Misericordia Sisters as a refuge for unwed, pregnant women, today Rosalie Manor is recognized as a local leader in the fields of pregnancy prevention and the promotion of positive parenting and healthy marriages.

“Back when we started in 1908, the main emphasis of the outreach was on the health and safety of mother and child,” says Dawn Groshek. “But in recent years, the need for fatherhood involvement, job training and parenting skills has led Rosalie Manor to expand its services to encompass the entire family: mother, father, child, and in many cases, the teen parents’ families.”

One key factor in creating stable homes and families is helping teen parents find employment. Rosalie Manor offers free, two-part employment workshops each month to give parents the skills necessary to navigate interviews and make a positive impression upon prospective employers.

Economic Stability Leads to Healthier Homes

The stress of poverty and unemployment is widely acknowledged as a common risk factor in child abuse.

“Our programs aim to go beyond the nine months of pregnancy,” continued Groshek. “We equip parents with skills that will empower them to build safe, stable and loving homes. By involving both parents whenever possible, we feel we’re making a lasting contribution to the life of a child.”

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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