



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ROSALIE MANOR CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVING MILWAUKEE FAMILIES

Founded by nuns, agency has led the city in social services for crisis pregnancies and prevention

Milwaukee, WI — June 11, 2008 — The cultural issues of teen and unwed pregnancy are often considered a contemporary crisis. But as far back as 1908, Rosalie Manor Community & Family Services (www.rosaliemanor.org) has been a resource for women facing pregnancy without social or family support. Now 100 years old, Rosalie Manor works closely with area schools, churches and neighborhoods, under the sponsorship of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, to successfully address a number of critical family issues in the Milwaukee community. Since 1908, the organization has provided support and services to tens of thousands of women, children and families.

“In our 100th anniversary year, we celebrate our donors and community partners. None of our programs would be possible if not for these entities,” explains Al Castro, Executive Director, Rosalie Manor Community & Family Services. “Of course at the heart of what we do are our dedicated staff and Board of Directors, and the support and guidance we receive from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and Archbishop Timothy Dolan.”

Located at 48th and Burleigh, Rosalie Manor has become a well-recognized resource in the Milwaukee community; however, few residents realize how or when the organization was established.

The Roots of Compassion: From Montreal to Milwaukee

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

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Rosalie Cadron-Jette, a 50-year-old widow from Montreal, declared her desire “to give shelter and support to women who were single and pregnant.” In 1848, at the request of the city’s sympathetic bishop, Ms. Jette created the order of Misericordia Sisters. She and six loyal companions with little means became midwives to numerous unwed, pregnant, outcast women in need of compassion.

Two of the Sisters, inspired by the work of their foundress, journeyed more than 900 miles to Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1908. Here, the Sisters opened a home and six-bed maternity hospital at 22nd and Juneau, later moving to 22nd and Kilbourn. Eventually, in 1969, they purchased land in Brookfield and began construction on what is now Elmbrook Memorial Hospital.

A residential and outpatient program for unwed mothers continued at the hospital until 1984. Then, in light of changing needs and the advent of new programs to serve these women, Rosalie Manor relocated to its current location at 4803 W. Burleigh Street.

Teaching Tools for the 21st Century: Addressing Today’s Teens

Rosalie Manor’s services have expanded to include: abstinence education, parenting programs, a teen fathers program and marriage resources. As part of its centennial commemoration, the organization introduced a new mission statement: “*Strengthening Milwaukee families by empowering parents to be nurturing and by guiding youth toward positive futures.*” Rosalie Manor pursues its mission by offering programs and services that:

- Ensure mothers have the knowledge and skills to provide a healthy environment that promotes positive outcomes for themselves and their children;
- Assist fathers to be effective contributors to the positive development of their children; and
- Educate and inspire youth to prevent teen pregnancy, build healthy relationships, and become effective decision makers.

Throughout 2008, the agency will celebrate its centennial year in Milwaukee with a number of events open to the public. The celebration will culminate in October with a banquet featuring keynote speakers and testimonials from clients who have been served by Rosalie Manor.

Rosalie Manor 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. (END)

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Note to editor: Photos available at <http://rosaliemanor.org/media/image.html>

Rosalie Manor Today:

Rosalie Manor's location today on Burleigh Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

First Lady Visit:

First Lady Laura Bush visited with program participants during her visit to Rosalie Manor on March 8, 2005.

Teens Protest Teen Pregnancy:

During one of the first annual abstinence rallies, teens carry signs and banners while marching to City Hall: "Just Say No to Teen Pregnancy!" (Circa 1980s)

Home for Pregnant Teens:

Two resident children play in front of the Rosalie Manor home for pregnant teens in the 1970s.

Under Construction:

Rosalie Manor under construction in 1968 on the grounds of Elmbrook Memorial Hospital.

Jette Portrait:

Rosalie Cadron-Jette created the order of Misericordia Sisters.