



FAITH'S LODGE

a place where hope grows

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FAITH'S LODGE HIRES ANNA LEIGHTON AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Feb. 20, 2008 (Minneapolis) – Faith's Lodge – a respite for those who have a child with a serious illness or have suffered the recent loss of a child– announced that Anna Leighton has joined the organization as executive director.

Faith's Lodge provides an affordable temporary respite for families dealing with the loss or illness of a child by offering an escape to the Lodge's peaceful northwoods setting in Webster, Wis.

Leighton has 10 years of nonprofit experience, including serving as the director of development for Conservation Minnesota and the director of development for Bethesda Hospital. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Olaf College in 1998 and will complete a Master's Degree in Organization Management from Concordia University in May 2008.

“Anna brings to Faith's Lodge enthusiasm, creative energy and passion,” said co-founder Susan Lacek, who with her husband Mark, developed Faith's Lodge to honor the memory of their daughter, Faith Ann. “We're thrilled to have Anna lead Faith's Lodge at it continues to grow and serve more families.”

Leighton will take the reins from outgoing interim executive director, Kristi Shepherd, who guided Faith's Lodge through its construction and grand opening. “Kristi helped us lay the groundwork for the successful nonprofit that we are,” said Mark Lacek. “We're grateful to Kristi for her dedication to making this dream a reality for families in need.”

Programming for Faith's Lodge is funded through a generous grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities, Upper Midwest. The three-year grant will support guest management, therapeutic activities, crafts, a food pantry and entertainment. Faith's Lodge is actively seeking funding to underwrite the remaining costs associated with construction and ongoing operational costs, including guest scholarships.

Faith's Lodge is a unique retreat facility for families who have a child with a serious illness or have recently suffered the loss of a child. In its northwoods setting, Faith's Lodge provides a community where these families can retreat to reflect on the past, renew strength for the present and build hope for the future. To learn more about Faith's Lodge, visit www.faithslodge.org or call 612.825.2073.