



FAITH'S LODGE

a place where hope grows

For Immediate Release

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FAITH'S LODGE HIRES PROGRAM DIRECTOR Kristi Luenzmann joins staff as organization prepares for July opening

March 21, 2007 (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 Kristi Luenzmann has joined the organization as program director.

Scheduled to open July 2007, Faith's Lodge will provide 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.

With Luenzmann's hire Faith's Lodge is one step closer to its mission of supporting families during times of personal crisis. The programming that Luenzmann is creating will offer guests a safe, supportive retreat in beautiful surroundings.

Luenzmann comes to Faith's Lodge with more than 16 years of experience working with children and families. She worked as a child life specialist at some of the nation's top institutions, including Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic and Johns Hopkins. In addition, she worked at the Ronald McDonald House of the Upper Midwest where she helped establish a house-based child life program – the first of its kind in the country.

“We're delighted to have Kristi on board,” said Susan Lacek, who with her husband Mark, developed Faith's Lodge to honor the memory of their daughter, Faith Ann. “Kristi brings with her not only years of experience, but also the passion for helping families through the most difficult time in their lives.”

Programming 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 of building and the future 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.