



FAITH'S LODGE

a place where hope grows

For Immediate Release

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FAITH'S LODGE DRAWS NEARLY 1,000 TO FIRST-TIME EVENT Event Nets More Than a Quarter Million for Lodge Dedicated to Families in Crisis

June 13, 2006 (Minneapolis) – The Marriott City Center looked less like a downtown hotel and more like the north woods on Saturday, June 3 as nearly 1,000 guests attended the Faith's Lodge Gala. The event, which netted more than \$250,000, was the first major fundraising kick-off for Faith's Lodge – an affordable retreat for families with a seriously ill child and those who have suffered the recent loss of a child.

The money raised on Saturday night will aid in the construction of the \$1.8 million lodge that currently is being developed on 80 acres of land near Webster, Wis. With groundbreaking planned for July, Faith's Lodge is scheduled to open summer 2007.

The vision for Faith's Lodge emerged from Minneapolis couple Susan and Mark Lacek's personal tragedy. After the loss of their daughter Faith Ann in 2000, the Laceks sought to create a safe, healing place for other families during times of personal crisis. Their idea quickly turned to action as they established The Lacek Foundation Board in early 2006. The support of Ronald McDonald House Charities, Upper Midwest (RMHC, UM), which is funding family programming at Faith's Lodge through an initial three-year grant, enhances the mission of Faith's Lodge. In addition to funds, RMHC, UM will contribute through its strong reputation and expertise in supporting families in medical crisis.

The success of the June 3 gala was a huge step in moving Faith's Lodge forward. "The way the community displayed its engagement for this event, as well as its generosity was amazing," said Margaret Murphy, fundraising chair for The Lacek Foundation Board. "What makes it even more incredible is that this was the first real fundraising effort for Faith's Lodge."

"I truly believe that the overwhelming support shown at the gala is a testament to the fact that people feel there is tremendous need for a place like Faith's Lodge," said Susan Lacek. "There are many families like ours who have or are going through the horrible experience of having lost a child, or who have a seriously ill child. We're hoping that Faith's Lodge can be one of the first steps on their path to healing and hope."

The Lacek Foundation is actively seeking funding to underwrite the remaining costs of building and the future operational costs, including a scholarship fund to ensure full access regardless of a guest's ability to pay. Private and corporate foundations are being researched for grant opportunities. For more information or to donate to Faith's Lodge, please visit www.faithslodge.org.

Faith's Lodge is a unique retreat facility for families who have a critically ill child or have recently suffered the loss of a child. In its north woods setting, Faith's Lodge will provide a community where these families can retreat to reflect on the past, renew strength for the present and build hope for the future.

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