



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

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Wheaton Franciscan – St. Joseph Campus named new State Headquarters for Safe Place for Newborns

Milwaukee (December 30, 2009) – Effective Jan. 1, 2010, Wheaton Franciscan - St. Joseph Campus will be the new state headquarters of the Safe Place for Newborns.

In 2008, 24 infants were relinquished statewide; 12 of those babies were received and cared for at St. Joseph. Because of this, the Board of Directors for the statewide office of Safe Place for Newborns voted to move the program from Madison to Wheaton Franciscan – St. Joseph.

Tricia Burkett, MSW, CSW, NICU Social Worker at Wheaton Franciscan - St. Joseph will head the program. Burkett has extensive experience working with the Safe Haven program. She is also an adoptive parent of a “safe haven” infant.

On Saturday, January 9, 2010, community leaders, elected officials will join many adoptive parents and their children for a special celebration to welcome the statewide headquarters to St. Joseph.

WHO: Safe Place for Newborns
WHAT: New Headquarters Welcome Event
WHERE: Wheaton Franciscan – St. Joseph Campus, Kleiger Auditorium
5000 W. Chambers St. Milwaukee
WHEN: Saturday, January 9, 2010
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

The Safe Place for Newborns program was established in 2001 to save the lives of newborns in danger of abandonment, and help to preserve the health and futures of their mothers following the



Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare

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enactment of the Safe Haven Law. The law allows a parent to confidentially leave his/her, unharmed newborn at any police station, medical office, emergency room or hospital in the state within three days of birth without fear of prosecution.

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Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare (WFH) is a Catholic, not-for-profit organization with more than 100 health and shelter organizations in Wisconsin, Iowa, Colorado, and Illinois. Started by the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters more than 125 years ago and formally incorporated in 1983, WFH has corporate services offices in Wheaton, Illinois and Glendale, Wisconsin.

In Southeast Wisconsin, WFH is co-sponsored by the Wheaton Franciscan and Felician Sisters and has nearly 11,000 associates, making it the second largest private employer in the area. Hospitals include All Saints in Racine County; Wheaton Franciscan - St. Joseph and The Wisconsin Heart Hospital Campuses, St. Francis, Franklin Hospital, and Midwest Orthopedic Specialty Hospital in Milwaukee County; and Elmbrook Memorial in Waukesha County. The region also includes Wheaton Franciscan Medical Group with more than 350 physicians in more than 50 locations, a network of outpatient centers, three transitional and extended care facilities, Home Health, and Hospice.

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare is also affiliated with Affinity Healthcare in the Fox Valley and United Hospital System in Kenosha.