



share knowledge

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contacts: Teri Davids, Communications Director, Wilder Foundation, 651-280-2471 or tad@wilder.org
Chris Jones, Communications Specialist, Wilder Foundation, 651-280-2448 or cij@wilder.org

On Behalf of Wilder Foundation: Kristi Arndt, 763-782-0265 or karndt@peridotgroup.net
Patti Winger, 651-436-3592 or pwinger@peridotgroup.net

Wilder Center Construction Update: Significant Exterior Work Is Complete; Occupancy Expected January 2008

*Goal is to earn a Gold Level LEED Certification,
Setting a New Standard for Human Services Organizations*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (June 2007) -- The Wilder Foundation, a nonprofit health and human services organization that has served the greater Saint Paul area since 1906, today announced that significant exterior work is now complete on the new Wilder Center. The \$37.6 million project is under construction near the southwest corner of University Avenue and Lexington Parkway, the former home of Lexington Park and the original Saint Paul Saints baseball club.

With the assistance of architectural firm Perkins+Will and contractor Duke Construction, the Foundation is hoping to earn a Gold Level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the building's "green" design, construction, and planned operation. Construction will continue throughout 2007; occupancy is scheduled for January 2008.

"The new Wilder Center is being built for several reasons," said Tom Kingston, President of Wilder Foundation. "Not only do we want to improve access and expand services for our clients, we also intend to use the new space to strengthen the collaboration among the Foundation's many programs and services, and save on future costs by creating a flexible space designed to meet the needs of the Wilder Foundation and the community for years to come."

About the New Wilder Center

The 99,953 square-foot, four-story building will house approximately 300 employees from Wilder Programs, Wilder Research and Administration and Executive Offices, and is designed to accommodate more than 22,000 client visits each year. A key feature of the building will be a community convening space for up to 300 people to attend training, education and leadership events.

Making the building unique to the Wilder Foundation, is a concrete word band that encircles the building and parking ramp's exteriors with 26 different word pairings selected from the Wilder

(more)

family's wills, the Foundations articles of incorporation, and its mission statement. The design of the "ticker tape" band alternates the words in a light/bold pattern, and was created by local Visual Artist Teri Kwant and American Artstone.

Final touches to the new building include a "backyard" with outdoor green space for use by clients, staff and guests, and complimentary parking in an attached 400-stall parking ramp.

Kingston added that the Wilder children's programs located adjacent to the current Lafond Avenue campus, including Holcomb House, Spencer House, the Child Development Center and the O'Shaughnessy Office Building, will remain at their current locations. Approximately 14 acres, including the buildings at 919 Lafond, will be sold. The proceeds from the sale will help offset the cost of the project and allow for new uses of the land.

About LEED Certification

Wilder is striving to attain Gold Level LEED certification for the new building by infusing sustainable construction and site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. The rating system was developed by the U.S. Building Council and rates a structure on its energy efficiency and environmental impact. A Gold level LEED certification would make the new facility one of the "greenest" in Minnesota.

According to Kingston, the building's sustainable design will reduce overall operating costs and provide community leadership on green building practices. Currently, there is only one other Gold-certified building in Minnesota – the Karges-Faulconbridge Office Building in Saint Paul, with several others in development.

"Our commitment to these practices is an extension of the Wilder mission to build sustainable families and communities," said Kingston. "By adhering to LEED standards, we are creating and promoting a healthier environment for employees and clients, and at the same time reducing operating costs through energy efficiency."

For more information on the new Wilder Center, to view video of the groundbreaking ceremony held June 2006, and see a real-time image of the building's construction progress, visit www.wilder.org.

###

About the Wilder Foundation

The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation is a nonprofit health and human services organization that has served the greater Saint Paul, Minnesota, area since 1906. The Foundation operates more than 70 programs and services that help children succeed in school; troubled youth and families; individuals and families maintain long-term housing; older adults remain independent; and organizations and individuals work for positive change in the community. Wilder Research is one of the nation's largest nonprofit research and evaluation groups dedicated to practical research in the field of human services. Wilder Leadership Programs work to nurture and build the skills of emerging community leaders, and to renew the energy and commitment of experienced leaders.