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New Wilder Center Receives Certificate of Occupancy; Move Planned for January 2008

Building is On Track for Certification as One of Minnesota's "Greenest" Buildings

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. PAUL, Minn. (December 19, 2007) – The Wilder Foundation, a nonprofit health and human services organization that has served the greater St. Paul area since 1906, today announced it has received the Certificate of Occupancy for its new Wilder Center, a \$37.6 million project near the southwest corner of University Avenue and Lexington Parkway. Several Wilder Foundation departments will begin moving into the new facility immediately, with the move of over 300 employees expected to be completed by the end of January 2008. Numerous public and community open house events are planned for late spring 2008.

“We have been fortunate to have the entire project remain on schedule and within budget since the groundbreaking in mid-2006,” said Tom Kingston, President of Wilder Foundation. “We look forward to 2008 when we will be able to provide a great place for our employees to better serve our clients.”

The 99,953 square-foot, four-story building will house Wilder Foundation employees from Wilder Programs, Wilder Research, Administration and the Executive Offices. It is designed to accommodate more than 22,000 client visits each year.

Numerous Wilder Center Features Enhance Environment for Clients and Staff

The new Wilder Center will bring together all of the Wilder Foundation's mental health programs under one roof for the first time, allowing staff members to more effectively serve clients across programs. Enhanced services at the new center include a staffed child care facility where children can play, do homework or socialize during their siblings' or caregivers' appointments. The development also includes a complimentary 400-stall parking ramp for clients and employees.

Another key feature of the building is 300-seat convening space to bring the community together to attend training, education and leadership events. This auditorium can be configured in a number of ways to accommodate small and large groups. It opens up to the Backyard, which honors the historic site of the former Lexington Ballpark, and was created using the original retaining walls from the park. The Backyard features an abstract pitchers mound in the center, with half of it being a grassy play area and half filled with native and adapted plants creating a habitat for birds and butterflies. This “urban oasis” will be utilized for many staff, client and community purposes and reinforces the concept of human connectivity to the broader environment.

***Gold Level LEED Certification Expected to
Set a New Standard for Human Services Organizations***

Wilder is on track to attain Gold Level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the new building, making Wilder Center one of the “greenest” buildings in Minnesota. The rating system was developed by the U.S. Building Council and rates a structure on its energy efficiency and environmental impact. Wilder Center reduces energy consumption by approximately 50 percent through highly efficient mechanical and electrical systems. Water consumption will also be reduced by 50 percent through water faucet aerators, landscaping techniques and other technologies.

The Wilder Center is the first facility in the Upper Midwest to utilize underflow displacement ventilation, which greatly improves the air quality inside the building by increasing the system’s capacity to deliver fresh air to occupants by 30 percent with little or no increase in energy use. Over 75 percent of employees will have access to natural sunlight and views. To create a healthier environment for clients and staff, the entire Wilder Center site will be tobacco-free.

For more information on Wilder Center, visit www.wilder.org.

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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.