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Wilder Center’s “Special Touches” Added to Delight and Welcome Clients, Community and Employees Alike

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. PAUL, Minn. (Jan. 22, 2008) – The Wilder Foundation, a nonprofit health and human services organization that has served the greater St. Paul area since 1906, today announced that the architects of its new Wilder Center – the \$37.6 million project located near the southwest corner of University Avenue and Lexington Parkway – incorporated special features into the building’s exterior that are sure to delight its clients, the surrounding community and employees alike.

Beacon of Hope

Referred to by Foundation leaders as Wilder’s “Beacon of Hope,” an illuminated tower juts above the roof line of the new building just above the front entrance. Tom Kingston, president of Wilder Foundation, said, “Like a lighthouse, our light tower captures the spirit of Wilder as a safe harbor in the community.”

Kingston went on to say that in addition to the tower’s symbolism, architects included the light feature to both enhance the visibility of the building at night and create a focal point for clients, visitors and the surrounding community to enjoy for decades to come.

The Wilder Center tower, lit from within, utilizes a combination of traditional stage lighting fixtures capable of casting patterns onto the glass with sophisticated and energy-efficient computer-controlled LEDs that can display an infinite number of color combinations and transitions. The tower lights are currently on from dusk to dawn.



The lighting system was designed by [Schuler Shook](#), a nationally recognized architectural and theatrical design firm with offices in Minneapolis. With the help of [FORECAST PublicArtworks](#)

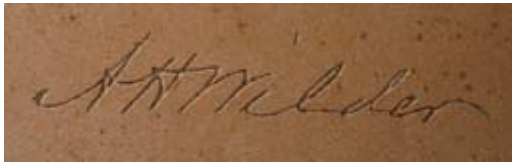
of St. Paul, Wilder has commissioned an artist to design an intriguing light show programmed to change throughout the year.

Family History Set in Stone

Carved into the pillars between the parking area and the main entrance to Wilder Center are the signatures of Wilder Foundation's founders Amherst H. Wilder, Fanny Spencer and Cornelia Day Wilder.

“In the early planning stage of Wilder Center, an internal team charged with creating a welcoming environment in the new building felt it was important to incorporate the founding family's presence into the physical structure,” said Kingston. “I agree, and believe the signatures add a special touch that uniquely bridges our 21st Century building to Wilder's founding days more than 100 years ago.”

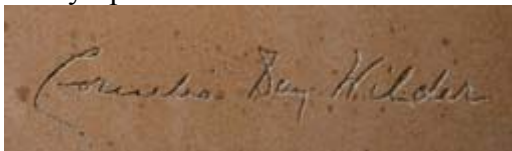
The idea to carve the family's signatures in stone became a reality with the help of local Visual Artist Teri Kwant, who is also responsible for creating the word band that encircles the building's exterior, and [American Artstone](#), New Ulm, Minn.-based fabricators of the stone panels.



Amherst H. Wilder



Fanny Spencer



Cornelia Day Wilder

About Wilder Center

The new 99,953 square-foot, four-story building - houses 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. Approximately 300 employees who will relocate to this facility are expected to be moved in by the end of January. Numerous public and community open house events are planned for late spring 2008.

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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.