



Salina Regional Health Foundation

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Groundbreaking ceremony for Donna L. Vanier Children's Center planned for October 13 at 10 a.m.

(October 9, 2009) – The Salina Regional Health Foundation will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center on October 13 at 10 a.m. at the future site, 155 N. Oakdale Ave., immediately west of the hospital's Penn Campus. The event is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

The Children's Center will become the new home for Child Advocacy and Parenting Services (CAPS), Salina Child Care Association and Salina Regional Health Center's Infant-Child Development Program. Actual construction for the single-story, \$6 million facility is planned to begin in the summer of 2010.

Comments will be heard from Tom Martin, Salina Regional Health Foundation executive director; Dave Sellers, Salina Regional Health Foundation Board of Trustees chairman; Donna Vanier, community volunteer; Joyce Trower, SRHC Infant-Child Development program director; Carolee Jones, CAPS executive director; and Elaine Edwards Salina Child Care Association executive director. A blessing will also be offered by Harry Tysen, Salina Regional Health Center chaplain.

The “Every Child Matters” capital campaign for the Donna L. Vanier Children’s Center has already secured more than \$4 million for the project including a lead gift from Jack and Donna Vanier and commitments from the Foundation and the Community Health Investment Program (CHIP).

The entire project is aimed to improve early learning and development for children at critical junctures during their life. Research shows 90 percent of brain development occurs during the first three years of life. CAPS provides a variety of education programs and services designed to strengthen families and improve the quality of life for children, including Chris' Place for child abuse victims. Salina Child Care provides quality childcare for children ages 2 weeks to 5 years, many of whom live at or near poverty levels. Infant-Child Development serves children from birth to 3 years of age, who have developmental delays or disabilities.

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