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PRESS RELEASE

Merrick Finds New Home on East Side

Agency's search for a new facility ends after more than 10 years

February 13, 2017 – Merrick Community Services (MCS), which has helped immigrants and the economically disadvantaged on the East Side for over 109 years, will soon support clients from a new facility. The 15,000 square foot facility, with access to an additional 5,000 square feet, is located on 1669 Arcade Street in Saint Paul at the site of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church (GALC). Construction for the site is slated to begin soon and last through the Summer.

Merrick and GALC officials recently reached an agreement for a long-term lease of space for programs and administrative offices, including new and expanded Food Shelf and Meals on Wheels operations to compliment the current facility located at Woodland Hills. The new, client-focused, features include dedicated Intake Rooms, a Computer Lab/Job Bank, Classrooms and Meeting Rooms, as well as a Multipurpose Gymnasium for a variety of special events and various programs.

“Our new facility will allow us to provide better service to our clients,” according to Daniel A. Rodriguez, Executive Director of Merrick Community Services. “Returning our central programs to one building will give clients access to multiple programs with a single visit. The staff and board are excited about the additional opportunities and efficiencies the facility will allow us to offer our clients.”

MCS's core programs provided support to over 15,000 individuals in 2016. The organization has been providing services in a variety of locations throughout Saint Paul's East Side since leaving its Edgerton Street center in 2013 - after over 50 years - due to its deteriorating condition. Over the subsequent three-plus years, Merrick's staff members have been connecting with its East Side clients at several different locations with a 'services without walls' approach - to ensure its neighbors struggling with poverty are able to use its programs and develop self-sufficiency. The new facility will be the fourth permanent location for Merrick Community Services in its 109 year history.

“I am excited by the launch of this new partnership between Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church and Merrick Community Services”, says Reverend Patricia J. Lull, Bishop, Saint Paul Area Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. “The church is a better neighbor whenever its commitment to addressing the daily needs of children, adults and elders is lived out in such a concrete fashion of sharing a single campus.”

The capital project, known as the “Merrick on the Move” campaign, is completing its fundraising to reach its goal of \$3M. A public grand opening ceremony is planned for July 2017.

For more information regarding the “Merrick on the Move” capital campaign, contact:
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