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HEALTH NETWORK

1601 University Drive Rockford, Illinois 61107-5317 P 815.391.1000 F 815.391.5041 www.rosecrance.org
ROSECRANCE GRIFFIN WILLIAMSON CAMPUS ROSECRANCE HARRISON CAMPUS THE ROSECRANCE FOUNDATION

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CONTACT:
Susan E. Rice
Director of Public Relations
815.997.5603 (voice)
rices@rosecrance.net (email)

Rosecrance Makes Inaugural Presentation of Castle Awards

November 1, 2007 – The 2007 inaugural presentation of the Rosecrance Castle Award took place on Thursday, November 1 as part of an appreciation luncheon with guest speaker Steven Ford, son of former President Gerald Ford and Betty Ford.

The Castle Award is given to an individual that has provided exceptional or exemplary leadership to advance the mission of Rosecrance. The recipient must embody the spirit of the award's namesakes, Clarence and Millard Castle, and represent an unparalleled commitment to Rosecrance and the individuals and families served.

"This award gives us a way to recognize those exemplary individuals or organizations who have blessed Rosecrance with their dedication and service in a way that is truly remarkable," explained Philip Eaton, President/CEO of Rosecrance Health Network. "The award is in honor of two remarkable men whose contributions both defined and led Rosecrance for nearly a century."

In fact, until 2004 there wasn't a day in the history of Rosecrance that at least one Castle didn't serve on its board. At the request of the United Methodist Church's Rock River Conference, Clarence Castle joined the board in 1916 when the substance abuse treatment center was the Rosecrance Memorial Home for Children. He served as treasurer until just before his death in 1970. When Millard Castle returned from service in WWII, he joined the board and was instrumental in providing leadership and guidance to Rosecrance as it made its transition from a local children's home to one of the nation's leading providers of drug and alcohol treatment. He oversaw the move of the facility from rural New Milford to Alpine Road in Rockford, the additions of the Harrison Campus and Monarch Homes and, finally, in 2004 the construction of the Rosecrance Griffin Williamson adolescent campus on University Drive.

"Millard had many interests, but the Rosecrance organization was his passion. He held the hand of Rosecrance for more than five decades," says Eaton. "Millard never viewed his contributions as anything special, but Rosecrance is a better organization for it, benefiting from his leadership, generosity, commitment, and his tending to the human spirit."

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N E W S R E L E A S E

In honor of the Castle legacy, Mrs. Jean Castle was presented with the first commemorative medal which features an artistic rendering of the two leaders. Jean has continued the close affiliation of the Castle family with Rosecrance since the death of her husband in 2004.

“Jean’s commitment to Rosecrance goes back to our days as an orphanage in New Milford. She supported Millard’s passion for Rosecrance and could be seen by his side at every event and program,” added Lynne Vass, Vice President for Development.

The first recipient of the Castle Award is John Mink, former board chairman and current Vice Chairman of the Rosecrance Health Network Board and Treasurer for the Rosecrance Foundation Board. Mink began his service to Rosecrance in the early 1970s as a member of the Rosecrance Corps which was a team of volunteers who could be called upon to assist on projects as varied as painting rooms and making repairs to assisting with fundraisers.

“John does a lot of things that don’t receive a lot of recognition. He hears there is a need and he responds,” Eaton noted. “He is committed to the mission of Rosecrance and reaching out to the community on our behalf.”

Mink has been instrumental in leading Rosecrance through its most prolific growth period which included chairing the building committee for the adolescent treatment center, a \$14 million project. The organization continues to grow under his leadership with the expansion of the detoxification center at the Harrison campus and the construction of a new Monarch House on University Drive. In 2003, Mink was honored by the Rockford Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals as the Outstanding Community Service Volunteer.

The awards ceremony was part of an appreciation luncheon hosted by Rosecrance to thank some of the individuals who have been supportive of Rosecrance this past year. Guest speaker Steven Ford shared stories of life lessons learned growing up in a high profile family. Ford made a career for himself outside the realm of politics but in the spotlight of Hollywood as an actor on both the big and small screen. In addition, Ford toured the Rosecrance Griffin Williamson adolescent campus and spoke informally with the teens who peppered him with questions about everything from life in the White House to what it was like to kiss Meg Ryan, whom he appeared with in the film “When Harry Met Sally...”

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About Rosecrance

Rosecrance Health Network is a leading provider of inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment services for adolescents and adults. For more information please call 1-800-ALCOHOL or visit www.rosecrance.org.