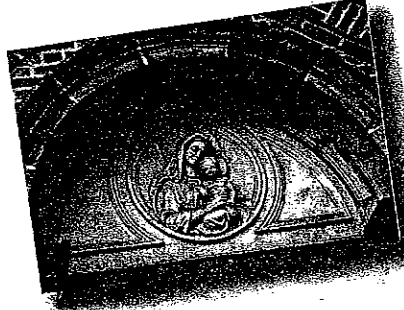


Welcome to Meta House Offices and Clinic



by Janice Christensen

The old school at St. Casimir's, 2625 N Weil St, has been transformed. A new, functional floorplan; comfortable furniture; cheerful, tasteful wall and carpet colors - the sum total is a wonderful new facility for the administrative offices and outpatient clinic and child care centers for Meta House, a national leader in alcohol and substance abuse recovery for women. The new facility is adjacent to the organization's current substance abuse residential treatment building for women and children.

The move from its leased space at 2266 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee will enable the non-profit organization, to expand operations and achieve new efficiencies in the treatment of women and mothers affected by alcohol and drug abuse, while improving birth outcomes, and impacting on family reunification and homelessness.

Dr. Francine Feinberg, Executive Director of Meta House, said the move will enable the organization to expand the number of women and children served and enhance the continuity of care provided for recovery from alcohol and drug addictions. She added the move would also substantially reduce operating costs, enabling the organization to reallocate funding to serving women and children.

"Bringing all of our operations into close proximity will make it possible for families to stay with the same counselor and case manager as they progress from residential to day treatment to outpatient levels of care," Dr. Feinberg said.

Cost for Meta House's move and conversion of its operations into a campus-like setting will total approximately \$1.5 million. The organization has secured financing and donations from private foundations and individuals to cover costs for building and relocation.

What Does "Meta" Stand For?

In 1963, at a time when intoxicated women were sent to jail, a Milwaukee foundation set up a west-side home to help a small group of seven women recover from alcoholism. Since the house had belonged to Mrs. Meta Orth, the residence became known as Meta's House, later shortened to Meta House.

When it was established in 1964, Meta House became the nation's first residential treatment facility dealing exclusively with women's addictions. They also pioneered a concept enabling children to stay with

their mothers during treatment. The approach has proven to be effective. Success rates at Meta House are far higher than the national average.

Treatment Settings

Meta House offers three unique treatment settings to provide a continuum of care for women at various times in the recovery process. The residential treatment facilities offer 24-hour care and a supportive living environment. Meta House offers beds for up to 43 women and 17 beds for children under 10.

The Outpatient Treatment Program offers intensive support for women who are not in need of a 24-hour structure.

When women are ready for independent living with supportive services, Meta House offers 28 furnished apartments in four facilities providing a safe, affordable option for women and their children. Supportive services include ongoing case management, AODA counseling, recreational activities, parenting, literacy, youth groups and job retention assistance.

In 2000, Meta House was nationally recognized with the Best Practice Award for a HUD transitional living facility.

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Meta House Saves Taxpayer Money

Meta House successfully impacts some of the most significant and costly issues in Milwaukee, including infant mortality, child abuse and neglect and drug-related incarceration. In 2008, Meta House served 311 women and 165 children.

In 2007 and 2008, 56 babies were born drug-free while their mothers were at Meta House. The average cost to treat one drug-exposed baby in a neo-natal intensive care unit in Milwaukee is \$180,000, for a total savings of more than \$10 million in health care costs.

In the past 25 years, Meta House has saved the Milwaukee community \$511,952,400 in costs that would have likely been incurred in the absence of treatment for items like emergency room visits, criminal activity, welfare and disability payments.

Source: *Meta House at a Glance*, publication of Meta House, Inc.