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**Crittenton Center Celebrates 115 Years in Siouxland: Opens with Museum Exhibit**

As one of Sioux City's oldest non-profits, the Crittenton Center is celebrating 115 years of service to children, families and mothers of Siouxland. To commemorate the years of service, there will be an exhibit at the Sioux City Public Museum. The opening will be a private reception for honored guests who have supported the Crittenton Center and contributed to its excellence over the years. It will be held on Monday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. with a brief program at 6 p.m. The media is invited to attend.

Starting Sept. 20, the exhibit will be open to the public for six week and will focus on past, present, and future challenges. Crittenton board member Diane Kay Sloan chaired the museum project with the assistance of Barb Work, a member of the Crittenton leadership team.

The Display

Crittenton Center started out in 1894 with two women, a county jail matron and a female physician who led the way to help care for a handful of neglected children and unwed mothers. Since then it has grown to an organization of 100 employees who serve more than eight thousand individuals and their families. The display will focus on past, present and future opportunities the agency has taken on to meet the changing needs of the community.

"We've discovered wonderful old pictures, newspaper stories and artifacts," said Marian Burnett, executive director, "It's been amazing to go through the Crittenton Center 'attic'."

Part of the display will feature cribs from the early day, a wood privacy screen, and a painted leather fireplace cover. There are also newsletters and annual reports newsletters over one hundred years old as well as photos and documents which tell the Crittenton Center's story. All of the artifacts, photos, and documents will be donated by the Center to the Museum following the exhibit. The exhibit also displays present programs and includes an 8-minute video featuring them. For a copy of the video for footage, please contact Melissa Lanzourakis.

Present Day Programs

Services at the Crittenton Center include maternal health, preschools, child development, and an emergency shelter for displaced children ages infant to 18. In addition Crittenton provides educational and residential programs for homeless teens, as well as those aging out of foster care.

"One of the real strengths of Crittenton Center is our ability and willingness to change as the needs of the community changes. Even now we are in the midst of strategic planning for the future," said Karleen Waller Board President.

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