

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



RICK'S HOUSE OF HOPE JOINS THE VERA FRENCH FAMILY

DAVENPORT, IA – The Vera French Community Mental Health Center (VFCMHC) is proud to announce that starting April 1, 2015, Rick's House of Hope will become another vital program offered by the mental health center.

Rick's House of Hope has been the regional center for grieving and traumatized youth for the past 16 years offering hope and guidance to children experience grief, loss or trauma issues. Services offered by Rick's House of Hope have included fall, winter and spring support groups for children of all ages and developmental levels, special holiday events for coping with that time of year, crisis debriefing for traumatic situations involving children and two one-week summer day camps.

"The mission at Vera French is to enhance the mental health of all in our community by providing quality, accessible and comprehensive care," stated Anne Armknecht, CEO of Vera French. "Adding Rick's House of Hope as part of the services we offer was just a natural fit to enhance that mission."

The Rick's House of Hope mission to support grieving and traumatized youth will continue but will be enhanced by programming at the Vera French Community Mental Health Center. The Director of Rick's House of Hope, Emily Gordon, will join the Vera French team leading the children's group therapy programs along with continuing Camp Good Grief, the summer day camp for youth who have suffered a loss and Rollercoaster Camp for youth coping with family change.

John Anderson, Rick's House of Hope Board of Directors Chair, stated, "We are honored to be joining the Vera French family of services while continuing to offer hope in the lives of the children that Rick's House of Hope has served. The transition will be seamless and ensure that the needs of the grieving and traumatized children will not be overlooked."

About Vera French Community Mental Health Center:

Vera French Community Health Center serves as mental health advocate for all populations in Scott County, Iowa. Through the Center's clinical and community outreach services, our staff seeks to help people live well, coping with depression and other forms of mental illness. Services include individual, group and family therapy for children and adults in a clinic setting. Vera French also offers School-based therapy available in elementary school in the Davenport, Bettendorf, Pleasant Valley and North Scott school districts.

Additional programs for chronically ill adults include the Pine Knoll Residential care facility for 24-hour support and three voluntary outpatient programs to assist individuals in gaining new skill sets needed to live independently. The Carol Center provides a place for learning skill sets, receiving a subsidized meal and peer interaction. For more information, visit <http://www.verafrenchmhc.org>