



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 29, 2011

Crestview Village to Dedicate Library for CSM's Education Department

Omaha, Neb. – Crestview Village will recognize College of Saint Mary's Education Department on Wednesday, Nov. 30 with the dedication of a library in its honor. The dedication will take place during the Crestview Village Network Center's Open House from 4-6 p.m.

"College of Saint Mary started donating books to our facility over five years ago, today the library is used every single day by at least 30 kids," said Debra Kaufman, Crestview Resident Services Coordinator. "College of Saint Mary literally made the library for us. We did not purchase one book; our entire inventory came from College of Saint Mary."

The College of Saint Mary Teacher Education library now contains over 1,000 books ranging from beginner to higher level reading. The new center provides a significant increase in space for family use, including the only library available in Mercy Housing units in the region (Nebraska, Arizona, Colorado and Missouri).

"Working with children in tutoring situations, we realized they were not reading at grade level," said Dr. Dee Acklie, Associate Professor of Education at CSM. "It is difficult to read at grade level without access to books, which motivated us to get involved."

Crestview Village is an extension of Mercy Housing which offers affordable family housing in the Omaha area. Located at 7300 Edna Ct. in La Vista, NE, Crestview Village houses 154 family units. Mercy Housing is a national nonprofit organization that acquires and develops program-enriched, affordable housing projects for a variety of low-income populations including families, seniors and people with special needs. Over the past five years the library occupied a small bedroom within one family unit.

"We could not be as effective as we are if not for the library and the dedicated students from CSM," concluded Kaufman. "Our kids now experience little to no reduction of skills throughout the summer, when students typically lose reading skills. The local school principal attributed this directly to the access to books in our library."

College of Saint Mary, founded in Omaha in 1923, is the region's only Catholic university for women. With over 1,000 students, CSM is dedicated to the education of women in an environment that calls forth potential and fosters leadership. For more information on CSM, visit www.csm.edu.

Press Contact:

Glen Sisk, Director of Public Relations and Communications
College of Saint Mary
Office (402) 399-2454, gsisk@csm.edu