

For Immediate Release

May 25, 2007

Contact: Andrew Thorp
(314) 962-6059
athorp@miriamfoundation.org

Miriam Foundation Wins \$30,000 Award Announces New Center For Children with Learning Disabilities

The Miriam Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to improving the lives of individuals challenged by illness or disability, has announced the creation of the Miriam Learning Center as part of its expanding commitment to the community.

Initial funding for the Miriam Learning Center will come from the \$30,000 Deaconess Foundation Award presented to the Center earlier this month as part of the second annual Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition (SEIC) held at Washington University. Miriam was one of four non-profits to win an award. The Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and the YouthBridge Association partnered to create the SEIC, which was launched in 2005. The Deaconess Foundation and the Incarnate Word Foundation also sponsor the competition.

Through partnerships with local educational institutions, the Miriam Learning Center will be at the cutting edge of the latest research in therapies and will offer a multi-disciplinary approach to help St. Louis area children who struggle with learning disabilities. The Center will address the difficulty that

families often face in finding quality, coordinated and centrally located therapies and programs for their children.

The Miriam Learning Center will offer diagnostics, evaluations, therapies, tutoring, enrichment programs, educational consulting and family support under one roof. The Center will be a one-stop shop for families who may contract for a comprehensive range of services or just the one that meets their child's specific needs.

The Miriam Learning Center, which will open in fall 2007, will be housed at the Miriam School in Webster Groves, an institution with a 50-year history of serving children who struggle with multiple learning disabilities. The Miriam School has built a highly regarded program known for the integration of intensive speech/language and occupational therapies into the educational plan of each student. The Miriam School's integrated approach is effective and also unique to the St. Louis region. The Miriam Center's services will be available to children who are educated at the Miriam School and other local schools.

*The Miriam Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to improving the quality of life for families challenged by disability or illness. The Foundation operates the Miriam School, a private, independent elementary school serving students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 with multiple learning disabilities including attention deficits, speech and language delays, fine and gross motor delays and autism spectrum disorder. It also directs Miriam Cancer Services, which provides aid to financially needy cancer patients to purchase medically related items that are **not** covered by insurance. For additional information, visit the Miriam Foundation web site:*

www.miriamfoundation.org

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