



saintlukeshealthsystem.org

## NEWS

**Sept. 23, 2008**

**For Immediate Release**

**Media contact: Kaitlin Staniforth (816) 932-2826, pager (816) 440-1888**

### **Janine Hron appointed Crittenton Children's Center CEO**

*Hron brings lengthy career in non-profit behavioral health sector*

*KANSAS CITY, Mo.* – Administrative officials at Crittenton Children's Center are pleased to announce that Janine Hron has been appointed chief executive officer of the facility. She will replace Stephen Churchill, M.D., after his retirement in December.

“It is with pleasure that I announce Janine Hron as my successor as chief executive officer,” Dr. Churchill said. “Janine is an excellent fit for this position because she brings an outstanding record as a fundraiser as well as significant experience developing innovative programs, crucial attributes now for leaders of non-profit behavioral health care organizations.”

Hron's 26-year career has been focused on the non-profit sector, predominantly with health and social service organizations. She knows Crittenton well; upon moving to Kansas City in 1985, Hron served in two positions at Crittenton, first directing ancillary therapies and then as vice president of community relations. In 1990, she transitioned to vice president of marketing for Saint Luke's Health System, which Crittenton became a member of in 1992.

“Dr. Churchill, along with the many talented people at Crittenton today, has written the last 20 years of Crittenton legacy on behalf of the children and families in our community,” Hron said. “The result is a broad array of top-quality services in support of children's emotional health, all available for any child of any age. I feel privileged for the opportunity to rejoin and lead in this important journey over the coming years.”

After serving in two other positions in the Kansas City community, Hron became chief executive officer of Spofford in 2003. While there, she mounted highly successful fundraising and capital campaigns that more than tripled annual contributions. She also applied her program start-up experience to the creation of a research-based early intervention program that, in less than two

years, grew to provide direct service for more than 1,200 children and their families, with client outcome satisfaction in excess of 97 percent.

“These are particularly strenuous times for children and families,” Hron said. “I think it’s important for those of us providing social services to listen well and then respond in ways that effectively and creatively reach out to meet community needs. To me, that is both our challenge and the great reward of this work.”

Currently, Hron is a member of the Blue Valley School District’s Human Relations Advisory Board. She was honored as the 2007-08 Trailhead District Den Leader of the Year for her volunteer work with the Heart of America Council Boy Scouts. She is a past board member of the Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead, SAFEHOME, and the University of Missouri–Kansas City Bloch School Direct Marketing Advisory Board. Hron received the Kansas City Up & Comer Award in 1993.

*For more than 100 years, Crittenton Children’s Center has been caring for the emotional health of children and families in the Kansas City area. It has evolved into a comprehensive system of care that includes acute inpatient hospitalization, residential treatment, outpatient treatment, and prevention services. Crittenton Children’s Center is part of Saint Luke’s Health System.*

###