



NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact Kim Scorza, Executive Director, Seasons
Phone: 1-800-242-5101 | E-mail: kscorza@seasonscenter.org

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For Immediate Release

Auction for Autumn Raises \$20,000 for Children's Center

SPENCER – On Saturday, October 31, 2015, 120 community members came together to raise \$20,000 in Orange City, Iowa at a dessert auction to support Autumn's Center. This regional children's center will open in 2016 in Spencer, Iowa, serving children ages 0-21 who have experienced abuse, neglect, bullying, grief, loss, divorce of parents, parental substance abuse, or who have developmental conditions such as autism. Autumn's Center is named in honor and memory of Autumn Elgersma, of Orange City, Iowa who died two years ago after being hospitalized due to the abuse she endured while in the care of her babysitter.

Autumn's mother, Jennifer Elgersma, addressed the crowd with a keynote speech detailing the life of Autumn and how significantly she and her family's lives changed on October 31, 2013 when three-year-old Autumn passed away.

"We are grateful to the many passionate people in northwest Iowa for supporting the Elgersma family and the 2,072 children who we are caring for," says Kim Scorza, Executive Director of Seasons Center. "At Autumn's Center, caring professionals will work with our children and their families to ensure the child's needs are being met all within a safe environment. It is with donations like these that this is all possible."

It was behind the walls of the Prairie Winds Event Center in Orange City that 14 tables of business owners, community supporters, and agency partners bid on locally-made desserts, with sales ranging from \$325 for one cupcake to \$2,200 for a chocolate cake layered with Kit Kats and Reeses' peanut butter cups. The auction was led by auctioneer, Terry Meekma of Meekma Insurance.

"Our goal was to raise \$20,000 to go directly to the completion of Autumn's Center and I'm proud to say we met that goal," says Candace Van Marel, Events Coordinator at Seasons Center.

“It was a beautiful evening, from the candle lighting for Autumn to the generous bids from the crowd. We can’t wait to make this an annual fundraiser.”

Seasons is a non-profit organization and has been providing a broad range of psychiatric and behavioral health services to people and communities in Northwest Iowa since 1959. Seasons strives to provide exceptional care to children, families, and adults through skilled, dedicated, and passionate employees who use evidence-based treatment practices and innovative treatment techniques.

For more information on Seasons’ services, please visit our website at: www.seasonscenter.org and Facebook page www.facebook.com/SeasonsCenterForBehavioralHealth

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Founded in 1959, Seasons Center for Behavioral Health continues to be a leading, comprehensive behavioral health center in the northwest region of Iowa. Offering a broad range of behavioral health Services, Seasons recognizes that investing in behavioral health is investing in a community’s economic, education, health and human services systems. Seasons strives to empower individuals so they might become active, contributing members of their communities. For more information on Seasons’ services, please visit www.seasonscenter.org or call 1-800-242-5101.

Avera is a regional partnership of health professionals who share support services to provide excellent care at 300 locations in 100 communities in eastern South Dakota and surrounding states. Our ministry, our people and our superior values distinguish Avera. We carry on the health care legacy of the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters, delivering care in an environment guided by our values of compassion hospitality and stewardship. Avera employs more than 13,500. Inpatient, outpatient and clinic visits totaled nearly 2.5 million in the last year, a number equal to more than twice the population of the Avera service area. For more information please visit www.avera.org.