



For Immediate Release

February 13, 2008  
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## NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK DRAWS ATTENTION TO SERIOUS ILLNESS

### **Rogers Memorial Hospital Treats Patients With Multiple Disorders In New Facility**

**Summit, Wisc.** - Many people are shocked to learn that Eating Disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, the mortality rate associated with anorexia nervosa is 12 times higher than the death rate of all causes of death for females 15 to 24 years old.

“A thin body is perceived as a simple answer for acceptance and happiness,” said Tracey Cornella-Carlson, a staff psychiatrist with Rogers Memorial Hospital’s Eating Disorders Services. “The perception is that it is ‘bad’ to be overweight and everyone should strive to become thin,” she said.

This is a perception that Rogers Memorial is working toward changing by serving as a sponsor of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, February 24 – March 1, 2008.

National Eating Disorders Awareness Week highlights the fact that body size and shape are strongly influenced by biological factors – such as genetics. The week-long observation also calls attention to some of the new discoveries surrounding the role of genetics in the development of eating disorders. Too often individuals struggle against their natural, genetically influenced size just to fit into that pair of “skinny jeans” in the back of their closets. Fighting your natural size and shape can lead to unhealthy dieting practices, poor body image and sometimes eating disorders.

Rogers Memorial Hospital’s nationally recognized Eating Disorders Services treat those suffering from anorexia nervosa, bulimia, binge eating, and other disorders, using proven, evidence-based treatment components that give individuals the best chance at recovery, said Cornella-Carlson.

In fact, the week of Feb. 10, Rogers Memorial Hospital opened a \$2 million expansion of its residential eating disorders treatment program. The newest facility, located about a mile down the road from the hospital's town of Summit campus, expands Rogers Memorial's ability to treat adult women with eating disorders, and creates a location specializing in treating women with co-occurring anxiety disorders.

“We’re excited to have a chance to expand our successful eating disorders program. This is a very serious disorder in today’s society,” said Ted Weltzin, Medical Director of Eating Disorders Services at Rogers Memorial. “By expanding our program, we are helping many more people who deserve and really need the kind of treatment we offer.”

Weltzin said Rogers Memorial Hospital offers three levels of care for individuals with eating disorders. The primary goals of treatment are to achieve nutritional stability, to identify and correct errors in thinking (such as body image distortions and perfectionism), and to address other obstacles to maintaining recovery. “The hospital’s treatment approach encourages self-empowerment, from admission to discharge and aftercare planning, individuals are involved in every step of the treatment process,” Weltzin said.

Rogers Memorial Hospital is a nonprofit behavioral health care provider for children, adolescents, adults and older adults. The hospital is nationally recognized for its residential treatment centers including the Eating Disorder Center, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Center, Child Center and the Child and Adolescent Center. Rogers Memorial also provides residential treatment services for chemical dependency. Inpatient and partial hospitalization services are also available. Rogers Memorial is licensed as a psychiatric hospital by the State of Wisconsin and accredited by the Joint Commission. It offers treatment programs at four Wisconsin locations: Oconomowoc, Milwaukee, Kenosha and Brown Deer.

To learn more, please call 800.767.4411 or visit us online at [www.rogershospital.org](http://www.rogershospital.org).

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