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For IMMEDIATE release

Former Olympian Suzy Favor Hamilton to Speak at Rogers Memorial's 2009 Celebrate the Light Gala

Event organizer aims to remove the stigma of depression

Oconomowoc, Wis. — Suzy Favor Hamilton, three-time Olympic track athlete from Madison, Wis., will speak at the Rogers Memorial Hospital Foundation's 2009 Celebrate the Light Gala on Nov. 14 at the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee.

It was the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia when Hamilton's life came to a screeching halt as she pretended to pass out after several runners passed her during the last 200 meters of the 1,500-meter race. Suzy was expected to bring home a gold medal, but instead she brought home an awareness of how deeply her depression had consumed her life. Once at home, she was able to take hold of her battle with depression and find happiness off the track. She will share her inspiring story with guests of the Gala and help raise awareness of this debilitating disease.

Suzy's story made international news, but the effects of depression also hit close to home. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 9.5% American adults suffer from a depressive illness, with women experiencing depression about twice as often as men. In fact, a study by the Harvard School of Public Health found that, if current trends persist, depression will cause more human disability and early deaths by 2020 than war, cancer, traffic accidents and AIDS combined.

Each year, the Celebrate the Light Gala helps raise funds to provide hope, help and healing to those suffering from mental illness such as depression. The 2009 Celebrate the Light Gala will be held on November 14, 2009 at the Harley-Davidson Museum, Milwaukee. This event includes valet parking, cocktail reception, dinner, auction, program, and presentation of the "Spirit of Giving" award.

Tickets are \$200 each and can be purchased by contacting the Rogers Memorial Hospital Foundation at 262-646-1646 or online at www.rogershospital.org/gala.

All proceeds from this event support the patients and programs of Rogers Memorial Hospital..

Rogers Memorial Hospital is Wisconsin's largest, non-for-profit, 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, The Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Center, The Child and Adolescent Centers. Rogers Memorial also provides residential treatment services for chemical dependency, inpatient and partial hospitalization, as well as day treatment programs. Rogers Memorial is licensed as a psychiatric hospital by the State of Wisconsin and accredited by The Joint Commission. To learn more, please call (800) 767-4411 or visit at www.rogershospital.org.

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This published release can be downloaded at www.rogershospital.org/media. If you'd like more information on this topic, or to schedule an interview, contact Gabe Wollenburg at 262-646-1389 or gwollenburg@rogershospital.org.