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***Windows Of Opportunity* Offer Glimpse into Past; Hope for Future**

**Unique, Historic Stained Glass Window Exhibit Set to Debut at Detroit Historical Museum Community Gallery**

May xx, 2014 — DETROIT — A series of Mother Goose themed windows, created by Detroit Stained Glass Works for St. Vincent Sarah Fisher Center in 1929, will be on display at the Detroit Historical Museum Community Gallery October 11 through Dec. 28, 2014. The windows offer viewers a peek into past, while promoting the future.

With roots as an adoption/foster care facility for children, St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center has been serving the at-risk community with education and care since 1844. While its first foray into education began with introducing the concept of kindergarten to the Detroit area as St. Vincent’s Academy, the Center has evolved to serve both at-risk children and adults.

“Looking back is imperative to move forward,” explains Diane Renaud, Executive Director/CEO of the Center. “We are thrilled to bring this historical display to the Detroit area community as a means to view the past while highlighting the importance of education — the importance of the work and mission of St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center to service at-risk youth and adults through education as a means of self-sufficiency.”

Currently, 230,000 adults in the City of Detroit do not possess a high school diploma or GED. Approximately, 8,000 to 10,000 are expected to be added to that sum, annually, as students continue to drop-out of Detroit schools. Unfortunately, where it was once possible to earn a comfortable living by securing factory employment or trade work, without a high school diploma or GED it is no longer possible. The end result -- those without a GED are not only unemployed, but *unemployable*. St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center provides free, personalized one-on-one educational support programs to at-risk children and adults with the objective of enabling economic self-sufficiency. The Center works with 1st - 5th graders via after-school and summer programs and tutors adults so they can obtain their GED.

The series of 18 windows depicting scenes from classic nursery rhymes highlight the importance of education as a window toward a self-sufficient future. In 1928, a fire destroyed the residence. In a short time, a new structure was built, thanks to the generosity of Charles T. Fisher Sr. of Fisher Body and his wife Sarah Fisher. Commissioned by Sarah Fisher, the original 40 windows were created by Detroit Stained Glass Works (1861 - 1970), built by Fisher Body and were installed in the new facility in 1929. Thought by some academics to be the first group of stained glass artists in the country, the Detroit Stained Glass Works used techniques and materials to create this group of scenes and characters that had been in use for more than 1,000 years. The predominately German artisans used handmade sheet glass and lead as the foundation for the kiln-fired paints and stains that depict the figures and present the visual stories based on Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes. As an added treat to guests, the original drawings, which are rarely seen outside of a studio, are included in the exhibit.

The three-month long exhibit shares the Center’s history of service, transition, current services, and the education dynamic in Detroit through a mix of art, information and interactivity. Specifically, the exhibit will feature 18 stained glass windows (12 original and six reproductions); artistry details of the windows; history of SVSF Center; current services; educational dynamic in Detroit; and interactive kiosks. Retail items will be available in September, including coloring book, note cards, ornaments and limited-edition reproduction of the Little Bo Peep window.

The original window themes include: Jill of Jack and Jill; Jack of Jack and Jill; Little Bo Peep; Little Red Riding Hood; Little Dutch Boy; Little Dutch Girl; Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater; Girl with a Curl; Little Miss Muffet; Banbury Horse; Mary, Mary Quite Contrary (on loan from Daughters of Charity, Indiana); and Bow Wow Wow (on loan from Daughters of Charity, Chicago). Reproduction windows include: Jack and the Candlestick; Little Boy Blue; Mary Queen of Hearts; Tom Tom the Piper’s Son; A Ten O’Clock Scholar; and Boy with a Bell.

Exhibit sponsorships are available. To request more information, contact the Center at (313) 535-9200, x 3110.

*Founded in 1844, the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center most recently served Southeastern Michigan as a residential/foster care agency for children. However, in 2006, the Center closed its residential campus due to elimination of funding. It was determined that rather than close the doors of the organization, to return to its roots – providing assistance to the residents of the community through educational program.*

*St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center moved to Detroit to continue nearly 170 years of service to the community through basic skill-building and academic enhancement for at-risk children and adults. These programs are designed to help build self-sufficiency skills for academic and employment success, personal achievement and dignity. For more information, visit* <http://www.svsfcenter.org/>