



Williston Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Malia Colby • *Foundation Coordinator, CHI St. Alexius Health Williston*

Phone: 701-774-7404 • MaliaColby@catholicealth.net

Birth Place to Open Its Doors

Williston, North Dakota

November 12, 2018 – With renovations nearly complete, the re-opening of the birth place at CHI St. Alexius Health Williston is just weeks away. On December 10, 2018, the birth place will be hosting a grand opening where the community will have an opportunity to see the renovations that took place on the second floor. With Williston’s population expected to increase 23% by 2022, and the birth rate climbing to 75 plus per month, the re-opening of the birth place could not come at a more pivotal time.

Dr. Fareed Kadum, Obstetrician & Gynecologist at CHI St. Alexius Health Williston, stated, “We’ve almost doubled the amount of births we do in our own clinic compared to two years ago.” Dr. Kadum has been a physician with CHI St. Alexius Health Williston for going-on four years and during that time has delivered hundreds of newborns.

Also, in the midst of the “baby boom” at CHI St. Alexius Health Williston is Nurse Midwife, Shannon Shepherd, who has been providing labor & delivery services for almost two years. Shepherd remarks that she is looking forward to the opening of the birth place and all that it has to offer to those seeking services. “Our patients will discover a more homelike environment,” Shepherd says. She adds with a smile, in reference to the new amenities the facility houses, that being in the birth place might be like “another day in Paradise.”

The atmosphere for mothers delivering in the birth place will promote serenity with the addition of a fireplace, jetted tub, flat screen television and more comfortable furniture for her support team in each labor & delivery room. If, during labor, it is determined that a cesarean section is necessary, the mother will not have to leave the unit because the operating room for obstetrics is conveniently located at the end of the Labor & Delivery Wing hallway to expedite care and provide privacy. The new, redesigned nursery adds Level II capacity and will be located in between the Labor & Delivery Wing and the Post-Partum Wing adjacent to the nursing station.

“The birth place will be a game changer for expectant mothers and their families, not just in Williston but for the surrounding area as well. The renovations will provide the capacity and

comfort necessary to properly accommodate for the increased number of births we are seeing now and what we expect to see in the future,” said Dan Bjerknes, VP of Hospital Operations.

As Williston continues to expand and remain robust with activity, many young families are making it their home. Being able to obtain excellent healthcare plays a role in the decision to relocate. The birth place grand opening will be held on December 10, 2018, from 5-7 PM. Refreshments and appetizers will be provided as well as tours of the birth place on the second floor, guest speakers and special commemorative items. The entire community is welcome to join in the celebration!

###