

# State's historic marker goes up at Fisher Center



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Sister Mary Patrice Larabell (left) of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, Farmington Hills Mayor Jean Fox and Farmington Hills Historical Commission member Ruth Moehman stand by the new state historic marker at the Farmington Hills center.

At long last, the 61-year-old St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, northwest of 12 Mile and Inkster roads, has its own historic marker.

Erected last week, the marker succinctly describes the center's history, beginning with its dedication on Thanksgiving Day 1923.

"It's a copy of a European castle," said Ruth Moehman, chairwoman of the Farmington Hills Historical Commission. "It's been a part of the historic district for a long time, but it never had a marker."

St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center began as a foundling and maternity hospital, the House of Providence, established in 1851 at Larned and Randolph streets in Detroit. The hospital was administered by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul.

In 1923, a farmhouse near 12 Mile and Townline Road, now Inkster Road, was bought only to be destroyed by fire in 1928. With the help of Sarah Fisher, wife of Charles Fisher of Fisher Body Co. fame, and an additional 80 acres, the existing permanent structure was built.

"It (the facility) is very much the same as when the Fisher's created it. They wanted it to be a refuge and a haven for children to give them a better chance in life," said facility executive director sister Mary Patrice Larabell of the Daughters of Charity.

St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills celebrated

its 60th anniversary in 1988-89. In its total 140 years of service beginning in Detroit in the 1850s, the facility has cared for more than 10,000 children.

Today, the center offers six programs, including programs for unwed mothers and for abused, neglected and emotionally disturbed children.

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6:30 am *Sunrise Eucharist, with  
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8:00 am *Breakfast*  
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April 15 - Easter Sunday  
8:30 A.M. - Chalice  
9:30 A.M. - Sanctuary  
11:00 A.M. - Sanctuary

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