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**Hillcrest Family Services Names K-12 School and Adolescent Residential  
Education Program After Anna B. Lawther —  
Iowa Matriarch of Education and Charter Hillcrest Family Services Board Member**

**September 8, 2011, Dubuque, Iowa** — Hillcrest Family Services is pleased to announce, as part of its transformational vision for the entire agency and the Family Life Campus in Dubuque, that the new Hillcrest schools in Dubuque, Maquoketa, Monticello and Thomson, Ill. as well as the Adolescent Residential Education Program in Dubuque will be named the Anna B. Lawther Academy. The announcement coincides with Lawther's birthday on September 8.

Delivering on two of the Six Promises — Safe Places and Effective Education — the Anna B. Lawther Academy embodies the ideals of Anna B. Lawther, a leader in the women's suffrage movement, but importantly a charter member of the Hillcrest board at its founding in 1914. Naming the services after Lawther is an acknowledgement of Hillcrest's rich history of tailoring education to students who require specialized behavioral care and mentoring.

At the same time, Hillcrest looks toward the future in its role to help children and young people feel safe and be successful. A celebratory atmosphere surrounded the groundbreaking ceremony for new facilities on the Family Life Campus in June, with many Hillcrest staff, residents and community members taking part. Announcing the official name is part of sustaining a high level of excitement and advocacy for this critical initiative.

The new facilities are slated to open for the 2012 school year. It is part of a long-term Family Life Campus initiative that will transform the way that Hillcrest delivers and finances services across the Midwest in the future. Campus plans include a new school and multi-purpose recreational center and spiritual life center, embodying the Six Promises of its mission: Caring Adults, Safe Places, A Healthy Start, Effective Education, Opportunities to Make a Difference and A Spiritual Connection.

"Naming our two primary programs for troubled adolescents in honor of Anna B. Lawther is recognition of her contributions to education and the rights of all people to be actively engaged in their community," says Gary Gansemer, Hillcrest President/CEO.

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The current Hillcrest schools serve more than 145 students in grades K-12 from Hillcrest's residential program as well as "day students" designated by surrounding school districts as high risk and behaviorally challenged. The Residential Treatment Program serves 64 residents a day. These programs enjoy positive relationships with many partners, and Hillcrest anticipates serving more students through expanded and tailored classroom environments and recreational facilities. In the past academic year, more than 75 percent of Hillcrest residential students discharged had met or exceeded educational goals based on their Individual Educational Plan (IEP). And 100 percent of the residents enjoyed safe and secure surroundings while in treatment.

Hillcrest Family Services is a faith-connected, nonprofit provider of health and education services for children, families and adults in need. Their services include, but are not limited to adoption, adolescent residential education, mental health, rehabilitation, medical and wellness programs, pregnancy and maternal health and other services focused on the educational, physical and mental health needs of children, adults and families. Through its Six Promises, Hillcrest is forming promise people. For more information, call 563-583-7357 or visit [www.hillcrest-fs.org](http://www.hillcrest-fs.org)