

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2008

Contacts: Patricia Reis 312-350-0041 or
Maxine Calvert 618-455-3227

HOUSE DONATED TO FOUNDATION

The Sainte Marie Foundation now has a home. Don Albers of DCA Construction, Breeze, IL, recently donated the former Harley and Lena Kirts house to the organization. Albers, a general contractor who specializes in farm structures, has used the house for the past nine years to house his construction workers when they are working in the surrounding area.

“This just seemed like a good match,” said Albers. “Foundation leaders approached me about donating this historic house when they realized I was no longer using it very often for my workers. It’s a fine, old house that needs some loving care at this point in its life. I think the Foundation can provide it.”

In the agreement that transferred the house to the Foundation, Albers has first priority to lease the house for his workers from Monday through Thursday noon for the next five years. The house is over 125 years old, has 4 bedrooms, two baths, and an attached structure that may once have been used for a summer kitchen. Harley and Lena Kirts raised their family in this house, and Lena lived in it until her death at 100 years of age in 1998.

Volunteers will help restore and care for the house as the Foundation determines just how it will be used in future years. Clean-up workdays will be held on Friday, May 30 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturday, May 31, from 1-5 p.m. All volunteers are welcome.

The Sainte Marie Foundation is incorporated as an Illinois not-for-profit, founded exclusively for charitable purposes and dedicated to improving the quality of life in Ste. Marie. The Foundation has IRS 501(c)(3) status, making all contributions tax-deductible. For further information, call 618-455-3227.

-30-

Picture caption: The Sainte Marie Foundation’s new home is at 113 S. Washington Street, Ste. Marie.