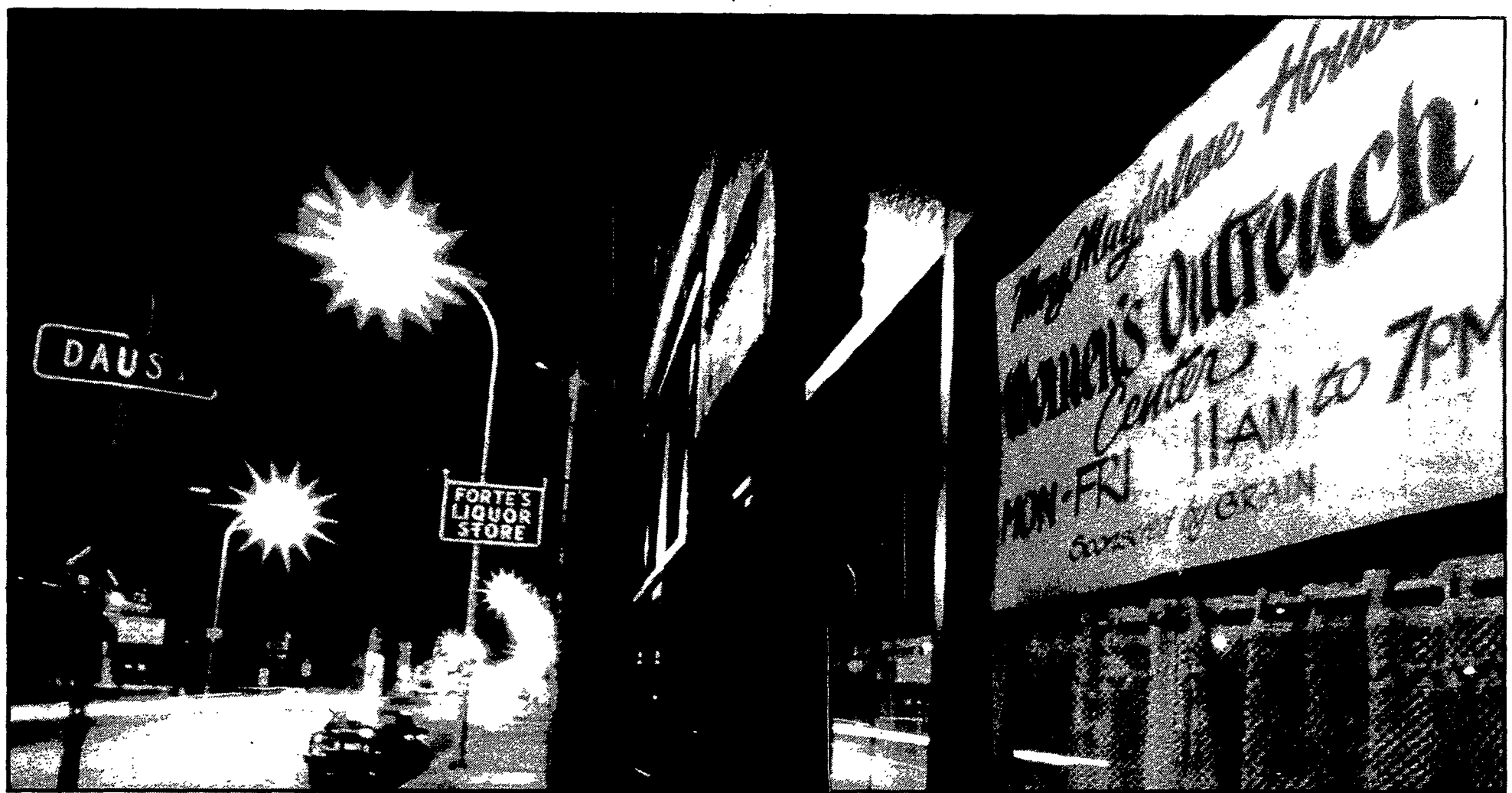


# CATHOLIC COURIER

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S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

The Mary Magdalene House Women's Outreach Center, 206 Lyell Ave., Rochester, opened its doors last week. Among other things, the center will offer assistance to HIV-infected women.

## Churches, center attempting to assist desperate women

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Anita Jayne knows the exact time a woman will want to leave the life of prostitution.

"When you're sick and tired of being sick and tired," she said.

And just about everything makes prostitutes sick and tired, she noted.

Prostitutes grow sick and tired of selling sex for money. Sick and tired of wanting that money for drugs and alcohol. Sick and tired of what drugs and drink does to their bodies.

Jayne knows all about those feelings because she is a former prostitute and intravenous drug user. She believes that both her prostitution and her drug use were addictions. She has since left those addictions behind in the 1980s, and is now married.

But her past left her a cruel legacy that she must now live with every day. Four years ago, Jayne was diagnosed with human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, any of several retroviruses that infect human T cells and cause AIDS.

Many people having lived through what Jayne has might consider such a diagnosis the proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back. Yet, rather than deny her condition and her past, Jayne plans to use knowledge of both for the benefit of women like herself.

Along with Kathy Moore, a registered nurse, Jayne opened Mary Magdalene House Women's Outreach Center at 206 Lyell Ave last week. Funded by private sponsors, corporations and local churches, Mary Magdalene House will serve as a resource center



Anita Jayne, who has tested positive for the AIDS virus, will now help other infected women at the new outreach center.

for women who are HIV-positive, Jayne explained.

Rochester-area residents have learned to associate Lyell Avenue with prostitution — a stigma the avenue's neighbors and businesses have long bemoaned. The area has been the target of repeated attempts by police seeking to stem the illicit trade that marks much of the avenue and its surrounding neighborhoods.

Nonetheless, prostitutes are still there. Mary Magdalene Center will attempt to reach them, along with other women who are HIV-infected. Jayne and Moore stressed that Mary Magdalene House is open to any woman fac-

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## Counselor dispels 'trade' stereotypes

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. — When it comes to prostitution, Suzanne Peters doesn't believe the world's "oldest profession" has ever existed.

Peters believes that prostitution is not a profession, but a continuing series of sexually abusive acts.

"If there weren't men out there willing to abuse women, there would be no prostitution," maintained Peters, clinical supervisor of Rose Haven, a project combining outreach work, counseling and a residency program to help women leave the life of prostitution in Grand Rapids.

Rose Haven is directed by Sister Dolores Kalina, a member of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd order. The sisters have worked with prostitutes since the late middle ages, according to Peters in a telephone interview with the *Catholic Courier*.

Peters wants to disprove the stereotypes of prostitutes — and their "customers" — as living anything but a twisted life of sexual abuse.

She maintained that "many people think prostitutes have a Hollywood image, that they have a lot of money for clothes or cars. But nothing could be further from the truth."

"It is not a glamorous life," she continued. "In fact, I tell people that 75 to 95 percent of prostitutes were sexually abused as children."

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