



CONNECTIONS

The mission of Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, Inc. is to restore, sustain, and enhance the lives of members of our community by providing an array of empowering services that focus on prevention, advocacy, case management, education, counseling and therapy.

OUR PROGRAMS»

SEXUAL ASSAULT RECOVERY PROGRAM (SARP)

(866)666-4576
asunza@sarpwi.com
www.sarpwi.com

YOUTH2YOUTH OF ROCK COUNTY

(608)313-9220
debtfk@aol.com
www.rcy2y.com

CASA OF ROCK COUNTY

(608)305-0187
casarc@familyservices1.org
www.casarockcounty.org

CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING OF BELOIT/JANESVILLE

(866)925-CCCS
cccs@familyservices1.org

BELOIT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR CENTER

(608)364-1083
(608)365-1119 24-hour help
khood@familyservices1.org

FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

(608)365-1244
jfruin@familyservices1.org

BELOIT HOME COMPANION REGISTRY

(608)856-0153
sguetschow@familyservices1.org

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WELCOME TO FAMILY SERVICES' CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER»

Welcome to Connections. The goal of this newsletter is to introduce those who are unfamiliar with Family Services to our var-

has maintained its commitment to helping families and improving lives, for over 80 years, even though the methods and



programs have significantly evolved. We provide an assortment of services dedicated to responding to significant challenges to individuals and families. Our programs include: **The Beloit Domestic Violence Survivors Center:** Helping survivors of domestic violence; **Consumer Credit Counseling Service:** Helping individuals in financial distress; **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA):** Advocating

for children in foster care; **Home Companion Registry:** Helping seniors maintain independence; **Individual and Family Counseling:** Providing mental health counseling; **Employee Assistance Program:** Helping employees and their families address personal issues that may interfere with or interrupt job performance; **Sexual Assault Recovery Program (SARP):** Responding to sexual assault; and **Youth2Youth4Change:** Preventing youth substance abuse.

Each program is individually funded through grants, foundations and corporate and individual supporters. Family Services believes the strengths of individuals and communities are significantly determined by the strength of the family unit – no matter how defined, and that each individual has unique and meaningful attributes that deserve to be recognized, supported and enhanced.

ied Programs and their staff, Board Members, volunteers, and past and upcoming events. To those of you who know and support Family Services, this will be an opportunity for you to catch up on what we have been doing and where we are headed. Family Services is a non-profit umbrella agency made up of eight programs that support our mission “to restore, sustain and enhance the lives of members of our community by providing an array of empowering services that focus on prevention, advocacy, case management, education, counseling, and therapy.” These programs address a vast area of needs in our community by working independently or in collaboration with each other and other services in the area. One of the oldest social service agencies in the greater Beloit community, Family Services was originally formed to respond to the needs of families during the Great Depression. The agency

A STARRY NIGHT...

"THE BRIGHTEST STARS ARE THOSE WHO SHINE FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS"



12TH ANNUAL ELEGANT EVENING — "A STARRY NIGHT"»

Through the support of community members and businesses, our annual event raised much-needed dollars for FS programs.

Family Services would like to extend its sincere gratitude for the dazzling show of support it received for its "Starry Night" annual fundraising event on March 12 at the Garden Hotel & Conference Center. The event was a brilliant success, with great food, music and fabulous silent and live auction items. The event raised \$25,000 which will help support the agency's programs.

We believe that the brightest stars shine for the benefit of others and we have many bright stars to thank for our success. We'd like to thank Kerry for being our Milky Way spon-

sor, their galactic support of the agency is greatly appreciated. Our other stellar sponsors were: Regal, Blackhawk Bank, First National Bank & Trust, Stillman Bank, Advia Credit Union, Angus Young & Associates, R. H. Batterman, Brabazon Title, Finley Dencker Buick GMC, Hendricks Commercial Properties and Wisconsin Distributors.

We'd also like to thank Best Events, Bay Jewelers, the Milwaukee Brewers and Tom Finley for their contributions as well as the many other individuals and businesses that contributed to our auction.



The event was an opportunity for us to share the mission of Family Services and its programs and to raise funds that will allow us to continue to help restore, sustain and enhance the lives of individuals and families in our community by providing an array of empowering services that focus on prevention, advocacy, case management, education, counseling and therapy.

Thank you to all those that help make our community a brighter place.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRENDS CHANGING»

An internal survey revealed positive changes are occurring locally for victims of domestic violence.

The Beloit Domestic Violence Survivors Center, after examining statistics based on 130 emergency stays from 2012-2014, revealed that 90% of the BDVSC clients from that time period did not return to their abusers. This is higher than the national average in which 85% of the victims who attempt to leave an abusive relationship will return to their abuser.

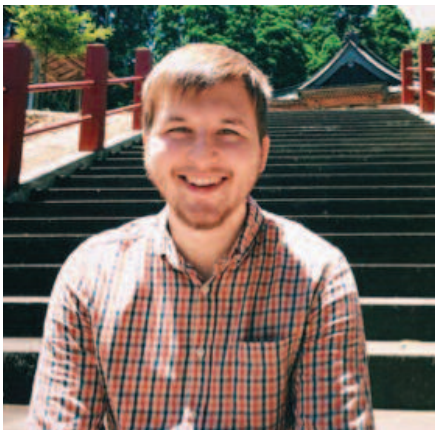
These results are being seen as very reassuring and positive by the staff at the BDVSC. Program Director Kelsey Hood and Client Support Specialist and Statistician Maren Hawkins said this was the first study looking at this issue done by the BDVSC. Hawkins spent 10 months gathering data, taking special care to get in touch with past program participants.

The statistics also indicated that women who obtained a restraining order against their abuser were much less likely to return to that abuser. The process for obtaining a restraining order can be very overwhelming and frightening, however BDVSC staff are available to accompany them to court and stay with them through the process. Accomplishments such as these are believed to aid in the clients' decision to leave the abuser.

It has also been shown that increasing their education, transportation assistance, and the support of a family member, friend or a program with housing assistance increase their outcomes. Hawkins found that 75% of past clients were now in stable, long term housing. The BDVSC credits its



success to the wide array of programs it offers which include its emergency shelter, 24/7 information and referral services, legal advocacy, children's programs, case management services, bilingual services, parenting classes and support groups.



Y2Y GRADUATE CONTINUES TO GIVE BACK»

Mackenzie McMillan — Student: 2005-2009, Staff: 2010-2013

What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my years of volunteer service not only with Y2Y, but also working on projects helping with disaster recovery in New Orleans and minority rights activism in Tokyo.

How have skills you learned in Y2Y helped you in your life?

I was a member of Y2Y in the years leading up to the Wisconsin Smoke Free Act, so I got to help firsthand with raising awareness of the issue and informing the community about the benefits of smoke-free environments. I will never forget how happy we were to see our work with Y2Y make a positive change for people all around Wisconsin when the act passed. These skills of community outreach, volunteering and activ-

ism truly shaped the person I have become, and have even motivated me to pursue a career in the field of non-profit organizations.

What advice would you like to give to today's youth?

Make the most of your time in Y2Y and take a second to look at the amazing difference you're making for your friends and your community! Even though some of the things you're doing now may seem like they don't mean much, they are really important and make a much bigger impact than you would think.

Youth2Youth 4 Change is a coalition of passionate adults and youth who educate youth about substance abuse throughout Rock County. For more information, visit rcy2y.com.

What have you been doing since graduating from Youth2Youth?

Since graduating from Youth2Youth I received my BA in Political Science from Loyola University New Orleans. In 2013 I moved to Japan to teach English through the JET Program. In my free time I volunteer with the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and take every opportunity to travel to new places!

NEWS IN BRIEF»



THE LOOKING GLASS RAISES \$4650 FOR CASA OF ROCK COUNTY

The generosity of The Looking Glass Bar & Grill and the willingness of their employees and patrons to help abused children in the community, turned the 10th Annual Game Feed into a valuable fundraiser for CASA of Rock County, raising \$4650. These funds will be used to sponsor 5 foster children, ensuring they have a CASA advocate by their side.

Over a hundred people attended the event which included feasting on wild game, and a gun raffle prize, which was donated by Sean Tompkins & Gordie Bouche.

Matt Schreier, owner of The Looking Glass said, "It is all about helping the kids. We are happy to support CASA because they do great things for abused children."

It was an awesome event and CASA of Rock County is certainly grateful

to everyone who gave precious time, energy and money to support our mission of providing advocacy that truly matters for abused and neglected children in the Family Court System.



HOME COMPANION REGISTRY RECEIVES GRANT FROM WOMEN'S FUND

Family Services' Home Companion Registry was awarded a grant from the The Women's Fund of the Stateline Community Foundation to be used for community outreach. Home Companion Registry is a non-profit program which connects qualified home care providers with elderly, ill or disabled clients who wish to remain as independent as in their own homes. To learn more about the program, call (608)856-0153 or visit our web page www.statelinefamilyservices.org.



WHY DENIM DAY

There's a real-life story behind why the Sexual Assault Recovery Program (SARP) decorates denim with our clients. In 1997, in Italy, a driving instructor sexually assaulted one of his young students. She decided to press charges and the conviction was thrown out by the judge on the grounds that because her jeans were so tight, the encounter must have been consensual. In protest, women in Parliament began to wear jeans to show solidarity with the victim and raise awareness about victim blaming. Eventually the perpetrator was convicted.



Victim blaming, which pins the blame on the survivor rather than the perpetrator continues today. We wear denim on a designated day each April, which is called Denim Day, in order to raise awareness about how many survivors are unfairly treated after disclosing their experiences.

1 out of 4 women and 1 out of 6 men will experience sexual violence in their lifetimes. So whether it has happened to you or someone you know, please believe and reaffirm whatever that person is feeling. There is no right way to react to abuse. And no matter what, the survivor is never responsible for what has happened to them.

GARDEN TO HONOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE, ASSAULT AND VIOLENCE»

Family Services breaks ground for a community garden for healing in Horace White Park

Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, Inc. held a ground breaking ceremony May 17 to kick off the construction of a Serenity Garden in Horace White Park. The garden will honor innocent victims of who have been subjected to child abuse, sexual assault, violence and domestic violence.

The idea for a garden arose from a haunting news report about the rape of an adolescent girl by an adult. While the case clearly constituted statutory rape, he was not prosecuted – apparently because of the belief that a jury would not have been sympathetic to the victim. When it was reported that the alleged perpetrator subsequently sexually assaulted an even younger adolescent girl, the first victim decided it was time to tell her story.

Hers was a story of violation, betrayal, and anguish that was a poignant reminder that justice for victims is often elusive. It was also a testimonial to the fact that it is, indeed, the strength and courage of the victim that leads to healing.

“It is a tangible expression of this community’s recognition of their pain and courage in refusing to allow their victimization to become their identity,” stated Executive Director, John Pfeleiderer. He continued to say that although the garden cannot ease all the suffering in the world, it’s hoped that the garden will reduce the amount and depth of suffering of some victims by creating a place of serenity and validation.

The construction will begin soon with donations from area businesses and individuals. Dedication is projected for the fall of 2016.

How you can help the Garden:

- Donate materials
- Provide labor, construction and planting



- Help with maintenance
- Make a monetary donation

How you can help victims of abuse and violence:

- Advocate and volunteer
- Make donations to victim service programs

If you or someone you know is in need of or could benefit from our services, please call us.



COMMUNITY LEADERS COME TOGETHER TO LAUNCH THE SERENITY GARDEN IN HORACE WHITE PARK»

Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center

(608) 365-1119

Sexual Assault Recovery Program (SARP)

(866) 666-4576

CASA of Rock County

(608) 305-0187

CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING AND WEALTH HEALTH OFFER PROGRAMS TO REDUCE FINANCIAL STRESS»

Are your finances stressing you out? ... Consumer Credit Counseling Service can help

Financial stress and debt often lead to poor health, strained relationships and poor work performance. Anyone can experience financial challenges due to circumstances outside their control.

Financial issues don't have to be overwhelming if you know where to look for help.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a program of Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, Inc., with offices in Beloit and Janesville, is the area's only local, non-profit, United Way supported Financial Counseling agency. For over 20 years, our trained, certified and experienced financial professionals have guided clients from financial stress to financial wellbeing.

Former CCCS client, Jolyn Stankus, recently expressed her appreciation for the program in a letter to the staff stating, "This program helped us out as a family, to realize what our real needs and our wants were. We were able to see the light at the end of the tunnel



by understanding paying the minimum payment was going to get us nowhere. We knew someday we wanted to be homeowners but with our debt there was no view of it anytime soon." By focusing on that goal she said "we were able to take the debt we had and really think about our needs." They were able to eliminate all

their debt within two years and moved into their custom built new home in October 2015. She stated "saving money has become a real hobby for myself. We have been able to accomplish these achievements on one income so we have a growing savings."

CCCS helps reduce financial stress by providing no cost financial counseling, budget planning and coaching. They also help with debt consolidation, debt management and the elimination of credit card debt and bankruptcy guidance for a minimal fee. Community workshops and financial education classes are also available free of charge.

WEALTH HEALTH PROGRAM»

Programs combine to assist single mothers

CCCS recently began collaborating with Family Services' Individual and Family Counseling Program under a grant from the Stateline Community Foundation to create the Wealth Health program. The Wealth Health program will focus on the issues facing single mothers and combine the expertise of CCCS Program Director Rod Benstead and therapists Amanda Isunza and Jenifer Jelinek.

"It's certainly a tough situation for them (single mothers), experiencing a lot of issues from both financial and mental health concerns," explained Benstead. He went on to say, "money and emotion and health are all intertwined". One element of the new program will include an exercise which will help clients understand the relationship between emotion and money and what drives their behaviors concerning money.

Because the program is grant funded, there is no charge. Single mothers who would like to know more about the Wealth Health program can call (608)365-1244.

YOU CAN HELP»

Your gift is important because it offers immediate resources that are directed to the current needs and opportunities of the programs of Family Services. To donate, mail your donation with this slip, visit www.statelinefamilyservices.org, or contact us at awhitney@familyservices1.org, pemery@familyservices1.org, or (608)365-1244.

- Tell me about volunteer options.
- Sign me up for the E-newsletter.
- Keep my donation anonymous.

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

- A check payable to Family Services is enclosed.
- Please charge my credit card:

Card Number _____

Expiration _____ Code _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please return completed slip to: Family Services | 416 College St | Beloit, WI 53511

OUTCOMES: CREATING MEANINGFUL CHANGE»

We've been thinking about creating significant positive outcomes ...

How do we measure the effectiveness of a program? To answer that we need to determine the desired outcomes; the impacts or long-term results that are the reason for doing the work that we do. In business, success is measured by profit, that is its outcome.

For governments or non-profit organizations, outcomes relate to successful achievement of mission or program goals.

LOGIC MODELS

Since the 1970s logic models have been used to help represent the processes involved in social services. Logic models are a useful tool for organizing program components in a matrix based upon clear categories: inputs, outputs, and outcomes. Models are useful for both designing projects and also for evaluating the perceived effectiveness of the services. They are not very good in identifying the actual success of programs.

MEASURING CHANGE

There are three reasons for this. The first is simply that measuring change is difficult. These difficulties push programs into measuring things that may, in fact not matter. For example, the goal of education is not better test scores (which are easily measured) but “better” lives (not so easily measured).

Secondly, outcome models do not do a very good job in factoring in (or out) the influence of other unrelated factors. A program might appear to be effective in improving some aspect of their clients’ lives but the improvements may actually be driven by an unrelated variable (say, an improved

economy). While few service providers have the means to do so, academic researchers are able to look carefully at a multitude of variables and use “control groups” to identify with greater confidence the effectiveness of any particular program.

These become “evidence-based” practices.

Finally, the lack of emphasis placed on defining the nature of the problem to be solved and in identifying a model to explain how change occurs are very important limitations with the logic model approach. Human service issues persist, in part because they are complex problems that are subject to a complex array of protective and causal factors that shift and evolve throughout a person’s life. Indeed, the complexities are unique to each individual — thus, for example, no two “domestic violence victims” will have either the same experiences or, more importantly, the same service needs.

STAY TUNED

In the next issue we will discuss the concept that in order to create lasting change in the lives of those we serve, we need to use a more comprehensive conceptual model — one that starts with a model for understanding the various factors that “cause” the development of the problem, the factors that “protect” the client, and types of restorative factors that can either augment the strengths or decrease the effects of the negative factors. Equally important, however, is a model clarifying how change occurs. These two components become the foundation for supporting the program’s design.



BOARD PROFILE»

Laurel Burke, Secretary

Laurel Burke is Associate General Counsel at Regal Beloit Corporation, leading their Ethics and Compliance program and is passionate about integrity in business. She is the first full-time employee dedicated to this program which has developed critical elements and influence under Laurel’s leadership.

Laurel grew up in St. Louis and graduated from St. Louis University. She moved to Colorado for law school at Denver College of Law and remained in the area until moving to Beloit to work for Regal in 2011.

Laurel joined the board of Family Services in 2011, the same year she moved to Beloit and has served as Secretary for about 2 years. “Community service has always been important to me,” stating that she worked in a social worker type role out of college. “The lives we touch, how we help make a positive difference in so many ways,” is what she most values about Family Services and its programs.

She enjoys spending time outside with her family, husband Alan and daughter Saoirse, walking, gardening, biking and playing in the snow on sunny days.



UPCOMING EVENTS»

Y2Y MEMORIAL DAY PARADE FLOAT — Monday, May 30, 2016

Downtown Beloit | 9 A.M.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT BENEFITING BDVSC — Monday, June 23, 2016

Butterfly Club | 5246 E Co Rd X | Beloit | 5-7 P.M.

ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON — Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Garden Hotel and Conference Center | 200 Dearborn Ave. | South Beloit | 11 A.M.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES»

Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center: We are looking for people to provide direct client services such as answering hotline calls and assisting with shelter client needs. Call Kelsey at (608)364-1083.

CASA of Rock County: Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer and advocate for the best interest of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect and are now in foster care. A new training session is starting on June 2. Call (608)305-0187 or visit our web page www.casarock-county.org for more information or to apply.

WISH LIST»

Domestic Violence Survivor Center: BDVSC is in need of pots, pans, Tupperware, and cleaning supplies. Please call to arrange day-time delivery (608)364-1083.

CASA of Rock County: CASA is in need of printer paper, postage, and gift cards for printer ink cartridges. Also, Target, Walmart, and gas gift cards.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS»

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Laurel Burke — *Secretary*

Nathan Bolin — *Treasurer*

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Kenneth Davis

Lori Goff

Lonnie Klecker

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www.statelinefamilyservices.org

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