



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
aisunza@sarpwi.com
www.sarpwi.com

YOUTH2YOUTH 4 CHANGE
(608)313-9220
debtfk@aol.com
www.rcy2y.com

CASA OF ROCK COUNTY
(608)305-0187
casarc@familyservices1.org
www.casarockcounty.org

LIFE FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS OF BELOIT/JANESVILLE
(866)925-CCCS
cccs@familyservices1.org

BELOIT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR CENTER
(608)364-1083
(608)365-1119 24-hour help
khlood@familyservices1.org

FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING
(608)365-1244
jfruin@familyservices1.org

HOME COMPANION REGISTRY
(608)856-0153
sguetschow@familyservices1.org

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ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION – APRIL 8TH STARRY NIGHT»

“The brightest stars are those who shine for the benefit of others”

Family Services will be holding its annual dinner and auction on April 8, 2017 at the Eclipse Center from 6 to 10 PM. The evening includes a fabulous dinner catered by Merrill and Houston’s, a wide array of silent and live auction items and is Family Services major fundraiser with the funds going to support our programs and services.

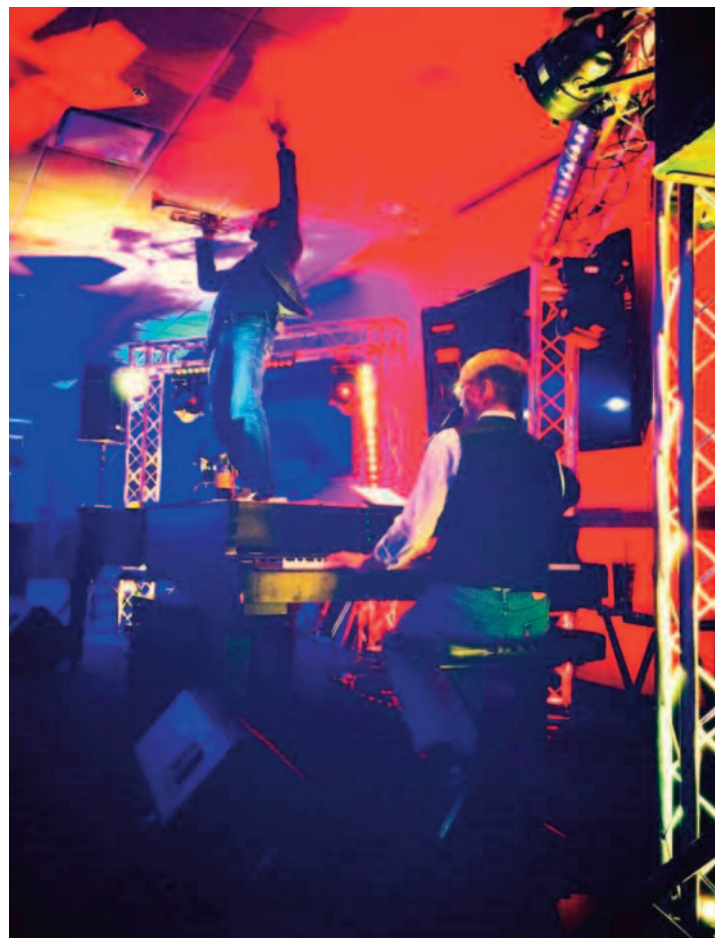
This year we are adding the talents of Piano Fondue, a Dueling Piano act which has delighted audiences of all types around the country with their class, style, and a whole lot more!

They are not your typical dueling pianos show. They have taken the dueling pianos concept to the next level with a full stage production, a custom light show, incredible performances, and experienced staff to ensure that this will be an entertainment experience to remember.

Their all-request rock and roll show gives you the quick wit of a stand-up comedy act, and the entertainment value of a show band in one high-energy performance that engages an audience like no other. With their unique blend of musical styles and extensive repertoire, the crowd gets a little bit of everything -

country and current pop, oldies and Broadway classics - the Piano Fondue show is molded on the fly to entertain every audience member.

Reservations are required and the price is \$75 per person. To RSVP online go to www.statelinefamilyservices.org/events or for more information, call 608-365-1244 or email Alyssa at awhitney@familyservices1.org or Peggy at pemery@familyservices1.org.



“LITTLE” LITTLE FREE LIBRARY INITIATIVE A FAMILY SERVICES COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT»

**JOIN US IN MAKING БЕЛОИТ THE “LITTLE” LITTLE
FREE LIBRARY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD. »**

Family Services has partnered with the City of Beloit, the Beloit Public Library, the School District of Beloit and others to bring “Little” Little Free Libraries to more neighborhoods in Beloit, with a specific goal of providing free books to kids.

Research shows that reading is fundamental to brain development and that early literacy and reading to very young children and is crucial for language advancement and creating a positive bond between parent and child.

Students at Beloit Memorial High School created 22 little free library kits that are being distributed to interested participants. Several individuals and organizations have already begun assembling and decorating their kits.

For more information, please contact Alyssa Whitney at awhitney@familyservices1.org or at 608-365-1244.



Students from Dance FX studio who constructed and decorated a kit to be placed in the community. They also held a book drive from which we received dozens of children’s books.

NEW BOARD MEMBER»

We are pleased to announce the addition of Carol Wickersham to our Board of Directors. Carol works at Beloit College as a member of the Sociology Faculty where she teaches about the intersection of biography, history and social structure. She is also the Director of Community-Based Learning and of the Duffy Community Partnerships. In addition, Carol is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church and an outspoken defender of human rights. Her insight and enthusiasm for our mission will help us to continue to move the agency forward to better serve our community.



BMHS students from Lyman Elliott’s Technical Education class with their Little Free Library model. These students created 22 library kits for our project.

LIFE IS A SHARED JOURNEY, STEPHANIE GUETSCHOW WANTS TO BE A PART OF YOURS »



Stephanie Guetschow, director of the Home Companion Registry, a program of Family Services, says that there is much to learn from working with senior citizens. Through their stories, she has traveled through time and has seen the world in a whole new light. “Being a part of their lives in times of need is such a wonderful feeling,” says Stephanie.

Stephanie was born and raised in Beloit, graduated from FJ Turner High School, then got a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Carthage College. After graduation, she explored finding her place in the world by working in a variety of fields such as corrections and child foster care. In 2001, she became a Social Service Assistance at Oak Crest Retirement Community in DeKalb, IL.

It was here that she realized her true passion - working with the elderly. In 2006, she joined the Beloit Health and Rehabilitation Center’s Social Services Team where she worked in short term rehab and was responsible for discharge planning.

In 2015, she became the director of the Home Companion Registry where she works to provide supportive and assistive services to the elderly, ill and disabled, allowing them to remain in their homes through the help of home companions. “Long term care has been one of the most rewarding opportunities. I have been blessed with crossing paths with so many seniors who have let me

into their lives as a caregiver, a social worker and even as a friend,” Stephanie explains.

Stephanie carefully assesses the needs of the seniors and the strengths of the personal care providers. By matching needs and strengths, both parties benefit from the service relationship.

Stephanie is married and has two children at home. She enjoys staying in with family, relaxing with a movie or doing puzzles. In the summer, she and her family go camping where they enjoy biking and hiking.

For more information about becoming a companion or the services provided by the Home Companion Registry, please contact Stephanie at 608-856-0153 or sguetschow@familyservices1.org.



SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR HAS FOUND INNER STRENGTH, RESOLVE, TENACITY AND HOPE »

“Ann” is a childhood survivor of sexual abuse. She has been receiving services from SARP since July 2015 and has made great strides in her healing journey. Ann has always been artistic, but it wasn’t until she started healing from her trauma that she “got her voice back.” Several months into her journey she began utilizing drawing and painting as a coping skill and as a means of processing her overwhelming emotions. In the beginning, her artwork exhibited deep anger and sadness.

When she painted herself, it was only a bare-bones sketch—highlighting how far she had withdrawn from herself. Months later, and after dozens of advocacy and support group sessions, her art features much more positive and uplifting depictions of herself. In one painting, she is shown greeting her inner child. Her latest piece of artwork features a butterfly—a symbol of life and rebirth.

She is now working toward raising community awareness about sexual vio-

lence. Her artwork was displayed anonymously at the Beloit Public Library in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, 2016. We know many people benefit from her powerful statement.

For more information about healing from sexual assault contact SARP at (866) 666-4576 or aibunza@sarpwi.com.



CCCS BECOMES LIFE FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS»

Life Financial Solutions is the area's only local, non-profit, United Way supported Financial Coaching and Counseling agency. Our mission is to guide clients from financial stress to financial success. No matter the issue or concern, we understand your need to find real answers, useful tools, solutions and actions that create financial peace of mind.

Your Life Financial Solutions Coach is a certified and experienced financial professional who will:

- 1.) Create a Financial Roadmap in Alignment with your Values and Goals
- 2.) Address Your Immediate Financial Concern
- 3.) Design a Plan & Strategy to Achieve Your Unique Goals
- 4.) Build a Sustainable Foundation for Long-term Financial Well-being

Our holistic process of coaching, counseling, strategy and action provides clients with measurable positive financial outcomes. All clients receive a comprehensive financial review, customized spending plan and financial action plan.

We can help:

- Manage your finances with less stress
- Provide you with honest, no strings attached information and ongoing support for you to get ahead
- Analyze your debt, savings and spending and provide recommendations
- Provide bankruptcy counseling and education
- Offer community financial education and workshops

Whether you need a plan to accomplish your most important financial goal, reduce financial stress, develop a

budget, create a savings and spending plan or just want answers to your money questions, we can help.

Call our office at 608-365-1244 to schedule your appointment today www.statelinefamilyservices.org/consumer-credit-counseling



Rod Benstead, Program Director



MEET THE NEW STAFF AT CASA»

VOCA FUNDING USED TO HIRE ADDITIONAL CHILD ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH COORDINATORS»

Beth Bray is an attorney who worked in both the public and private sectors. She served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in rural Alaska, a conservation youth corps supervisor on an Apache reservation, and a caretaker for adults with developmental disabilities. She is excited to draw on her legal, social services, and community outreach background to help further CASA's mission of advocating for the best interests of children in foster care.

Brittney Blackwood has worked in the child welfare system in both Illinois and Indiana. Her experiences range from providing direct services to families as a Child Welfare Family Therapist to working in non-profit administration. As someone who grew up in Rock County, she is thrilled to be a part of this organization and will continue working to make a positive difference in the lives of children and families in Rock County.



*Brittney Blackwood and Beth Bray,
Child Advocacy and Outreach Coordinators*



PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

When: Saturday, April 1st from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Where: Rock County Courthouse - 51 S. Main - Janesville Lower Courthouse Park
What: Plant a blue pinwheel in the ground to symbolize your commitment to prevent child abuse.

Come and learn how you can join the movement to help prevent child abuse in our community.

For more information:
Call: 608-305-0187



SAFE KIDS STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING COMMUNITIES

PET THERAPY AT FAMILY SERVICES: A NEW APPROACH TO HELPING CLIENTS»

Four legged animals and humans have co-existed for thousands of years—long enough for dogs to earn the title of ‘Man’s Best Friend’. Therefore, it is no surprise that dogs have become a resource for staff in the healthcare field. A growing number of hospitals, nursing homes and counseling centers have added ‘pet therapy’ to their rosters as one of the many ways of helping clients de-stress during hard times.

Formally known as Animal Assisted Therapy, this practice has been increasing in popularity over the past fifteen years, but has been around since the late nineteenth century. Florence Nightingale and Sigmund Freud both used animals while treating to patients. Nightingale wrote of its benefits in her diary, noting how children and adults in psychiatric hospitals felt joy playing with small animals. Freud would bring

his dog Jofi along to private therapy sessions, convinced that the Chinese chow chow could sense a client’s level of tension. Today, Animal Assisted Therapy has been reported to be particularly effective in improving social and communication skills and mood, helping with anxiety involving eating disorders, facilitating independent living, and improving empathetic skills.

At Family Services, Individual and Family Counseling Program counselor Jenifer Jelinek’s American Staffordshire mix, Luka, has been visiting clients several days a week since August of 2016. Having a dog in the office has proven to be a great topic of conversation for both staff and clients as it is not everyday a friendly four-legged animal is seen roaming the offices. Although Luka is a relatively new addition to Family Services, her presence has already been



Luka, Family Services resident pet therapist

very beneficial to all who enter the building.

For more information on our counseling program please contact Jennifer Weidner at 608-365-1244 or jfruin@familyservices1.org.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOHN PFLEIDERER»



We know that the opportunities for improving our communities remain close at hand. We also understand that the problems that undermine the healthy

growth of communities are complex, usually interconnected, and sprinkled with unforeseen setbacks. Communities thrive when there are collective, coordinated, mindful, and effective efforts to create meaningful and lasting change. We believe that our programs have a role to play, a role that is often essential but not always sufficient in and of itself to create the lasting changes we desire. We will continue to work with our clients to

find the additional resources to thrive. Here’s what our programs are working on to contribute to that change:

1. The Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center is committed to increasing the number of individuals receiving non-shelter based (community outreach) services;
2. The Counseling program is focused on increasing our counseling presence in critical need census tracts within Beloit;
3. The Home Companion Registry is working to increase our capacity to serve families and individuals affected by dementia;
4. CASA’s goal is to increase capacity to serve child abuse victims by increasing the active roster of volunteer advocates to 50.
5. The Sexual Assault Recovery Program is strategically advancing its efforts to

reach additional adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse;

6. Life Financial Solutions (formerly CCCS Beloit Janesville) is focused on increasing financial counseling services to families facing multiple stressors; and
7. Youth2Youth will continue its effort to contribute to the decline of youth-reported use of alcohol, tobacco, E-cigarettes, non-prescribed prescription medications, and marijuana.

We will check back with you later in the year to let you know how well we were able to move our part of “the needle” in a positive direction.

SERVICES AT THE БЕЛОIT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR CENTER HAVE EXPANDED, VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED»

The Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center (BDVSC) has been a shelter for women and children who have left their homes due to domestic violence for many years. However, the services for victims go way beyond a safe place to stay. Everyone receiving services, whether residing in the shelter or in the community, has access to a case manager for support and assistance in achieving their goals.

Now these services are available to male victims of domestic and sexual abuse as well. A demographic often overlooked, male victims now have access to counseling, case management and a support group. Services to all clients also include housing assistance, legal advocacy, and the capacity to provide outreach services (e.g., to the hospital) around the clock.

Due to the expansion of its services, the BDVSC has several opportunities

for community members to support those in need. Program Director, Kelsey Hood-Christenson and staff are working to develop a comprehensive Community Response Team that will provide on-call support for victims who have contact with law enforcement and/or medical services. These volunteers will provide immediate support to victims and link them to the Center for on-going services as appropriate.

BDVSC is also looking for the following volunteers:

- **Crisis Call Volunteers** to assist, advocate, and provide referrals to clients who call the crisis line
- **Child Care Volunteers** to provide child care on an “as needed” basis for clients in shelter
- **Support Group Volunteers** to provide group counseling to both men and women victims of domestic abuse,

- **Facility Volunteers** to sort donations and assist with facility upkeep, and
- **Event Volunteers** to assist with developing affirming events for clients as well as public information and/or fundraising events.

Our volunteers receive comprehensive training so they can deliver fair, sensitive and competent services to all victims of domestic violence.

For more information please contact Dana Lewellyn at dlewellyn@familyservices1.org or call 608-364-1083.



Y2Y 4 CHANGE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE»



The Youth 2 Youth 4 Change coalition recently celebrated 25 years of service. Program Director, Debbie Fisher noted, “We have had over 5,000 young people act as youth advocates since 1995 when the youth program was developed, and every year over 200 teens serve in this capacity, educating 6,000 elementary through high school students about the dangers of drug misuse and abuse.”

These youth advocates utilize evidence-based, age-appropriate and interactive approaches which resonate with students. While the coalition is involved in many issues including tobacco control, alcohol and prescription drugs, one of its major concerns is youth marijuana use. The youth advocates have embraced this challenge and have implemented a training program that is making an impact. “Through the coalition’s training efforts, students know that tobacco use can cause cancer and how the industry hid that fact from the public. They know

Continued on page 7

Y2Y 4 CHANGE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE»

Continued from page 6

that some of the same toxins and carcinogens found in cigarette smoke are also present in marijuana smoke,” reiterates Fischer.

As a result of their efforts, from 2014-2016, there has been an 8 percent decrease in reported marijuana use among Beloit’s high school students. Unfortunately data also points to the fact that there has been an increase in marijuana use among middle schoolers.

“While this information is disheartening, we know that data drives our efforts, not the other way around,” says Fischer. “We will be launching our marijuana education program to our elementary school students so by the time these students reach middle school, they will be well-prepared for the decisions they may face.”

Such activities could be not achieved without community support and a strong foundation. Indeed, Youth2Youth 4 Change is proud of the fact that all sectors are represented and engaged; there are strong youth/adult partnerships; and coalition goals and activities are achievable, action-oriented and evaluated. As a result of these strategies, there has been:

- A reduction in youth substance misuse
- An increase in tobacco and alcohol compliance in Rock County and Beloit
- Passage of community smoke-free air ordinances, and the coalition is assisting with the implementation of the Wisconsin Smokefree Ordinance
- Passage of multiple e-cigarette regulations for Rock County schools and communities
- Passage of a Beloit Township social host ordinance

Fischer attributes the success to their model of including youth in all aspects of the coalition – they know how to talk to their peers and younger youth, and they have a voice that can and does, get heard.

Reprinted in part from CADCA.org



BOARD PROFILE»

CANDACE SMITH HIRSH



Candace Smith Hirsh, Beverage Applications Scientist at Kerry, has been on the Family Services board for three years. She is originally from Long Beach, California and moved to the area in 2012. “I attended Christian schools from preschool all the way through college so volunteering has always been a huge part of my life. I am particularly passionate about issues of sexual assault and child advocacy so Family Services was a perfect fit.”

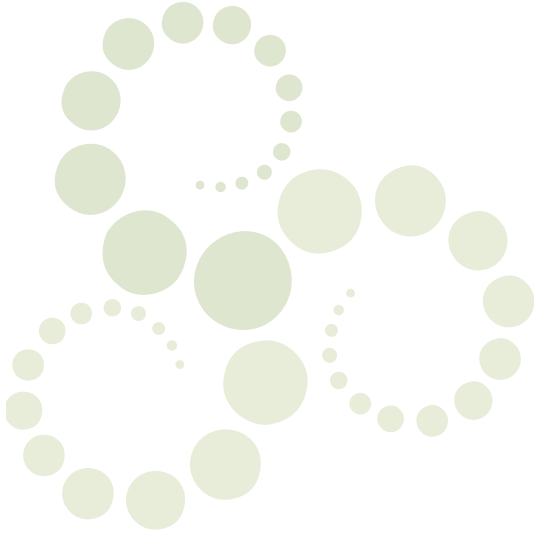
Candace says she enjoys working with the staff and board members, participating in events in the Beloit community and her role in helping bring about the Serenity Garden that is currently under construction in Horace White Park. However, reading the financials have been most challenging. “As a chemist, financial spreadsheets are not part of my every day expertise.” She admires the dedication of everyone in the organization, from board to staff to volunteers.

Candace is very involved in the community, participating in the Kerry Ambassador program, GWIS (Girls and Women in Science), various 5k charity runs. She is also a member of Beloit Rising Professionals and a member of Holy Covenant United Methodist Church in Chicago. She also serves as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), working on behalf of abused children in Rock County.

When not working or volunteering, Candace is traveling, gardening, running, doing yoga, reading, learning Chinese/Mandarin or studying to be a certified food scientist. “Did I mention I’m in a band?” Kerry has an in-house band called the Flavortones. “I play keyboard, tambourine and sing occasionally.”

Candace adds much to the Family Services Board and to the community.

Family Services of Southern WI and Northern IL, Inc.
416 College Street » Beloit, WI 53511 » (608) 365-1244



UPCOMING EVENTS»

- APRIL 1, 2017** **CASA**
Pinwheels for Prevention Rock County Courthouse
Janesville 12-4
- APRIL 8, 2017** **FAMILY SERVICES "STARRY NIGHT"**
Annual Dinner Auction Eclipse Center 6-10 RSVP 365-1244
- APRIL 26, 2017** **SEXUAL ASSAULT RECOVERY PROGRAM (SARP)**
Denim Day
- APRIL 27, 2017** **NEW CASA TRAINING; 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM**
at the Rock County Courthouse.
Call CASA at 608-305-0187 for more information

BOARD OF DIRECTORS»

Tom Finley – *President*
Bill Flanagan – *Vice President*
Laurel Burke – *Secretary*
Nathan Bolin – *Treasurer*
Isaac Bamgbose
Candace Smith Hirsh
Lonnie Klecker
Betsy Schmiechen
Margery Wakefield
Carol Wickersham
David Zibolski

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

www.statelinefamilyservices.org
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