



News Release

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Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin Receives \$5,000 AT&T Award to Support Housing Program for Local Homeless Youth

AT&T Funding Will Support 'Transitional Living Program'

GREEN BAY, Friday, October 2, 2015 – Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc. was presented today with a \$5,000 AT&T Innovation Award to support its efforts to provide housing and case management services for local homeless youth.

The AT&T donation will support Family Services' "Transitional Living Program." The mission of the program is to provide safe and stable shelter to homeless youth in order to help them complete high school, learn valuable life skills, get a job and become contributing members of the community.

"Family Services is committed to helping homeless students in Green Bay with the housing, support and resources they need to finish high school and become contributing members of our community," said Jeff Vande Leest, president of Family Services. "We are thrilled to receive this contribution from AT&T to support our efforts to care for the homeless youth we serve."

Homeless youth is an issue in the Green Bay area, with the community currently ranking 2nd in the state for the homeless youth population. Established in 2000, Family Services' TLP program provides safe and stable housing along with intensive case management to homeless youth. The goal is to help these youth gain independence and develop the skills needed to successfully live on their own.

Family Services' homeless youth program is the only one of its kind in the Green Bay community. It currently serves more than 65 youth annually, and has a waiting list of over 100 individuals.

"AT&T shares Family Services' commitment to helping our homeless youth have the education, support and resources they need to be successful in life," said Scott T. VanderSanden, president of AT&T Wisconsin. "As a company, AT&T is dedicated to giving back to our communities and helping prepare all of our young people to be our future leaders."

Through the TLP program, youth gain valuable life and work skills, and are given the support they need to finish high school, devise a plan for post-secondary education, seek and maintain employment, and live independently in their own apartment at the conclusion of the program.

“Too many of our young people deal with homelessness, and the TLP program is critical to helping these students have the care, support and resources they need to prosper,” said State Rep. John Macco. “We are very fortunate to have organizations like Family Services working hard to help our homeless teens finish high school and have a solid foundation for a successful future. I applaud AT&T for their continued support of the Green Bay community through this donation.”

Transitional housing programs have proven to be effective in helping homeless youth successfully live independently, according to Family Services. The TLP program has proven results, including:

- 100% of teens learning independent living skills;
- 92% employed while in the program;
- 85% taking on their own leases after the program;
- 85% of youth enrolled in high school or GED programs graduating;
- 83% of youth in programming currently employed; and
- 81% of youth enrolled in educational programs.

Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin is a non-profit, human services agency that protects, heals and cares for the children and families of Northeast Wisconsin. The agency offers more than 30 programs that support the people of our communities during challenges and transitions in their lives, including the Transitional Living Program to support local homeless youth.

The AT&T Wisconsin Innovation & Investment Award program provides funding to organizations and programs that improve the community by advancing education, enhancing the environment, promoting economic development or delivering vital community services.

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About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T

AT&T Inc. is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. In 2013, more than \$130 million was contributed or directed through corporate-, employee-, social investment- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T's signature education initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring.

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