FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Primary Contact:  Erik Cornelius, (920) 337-1894
Secondary Contact:  Tana Koss, MSW, CAPSW, (920) 436-4360 ext 1252

Suicide Prevention Week is September 7-13

As a community we have an incredible opportunity to show Wisconsin that Brown County is serious about ending the stigma surrounding depression and suicide as well as addressing the reality of suicide in our communities. On Saturday, September 6, 2014 at 4:30 pm a Candlelight Walk for Suicide Prevention will take place at Voyager Park in De Pere, WI. This year’s speaker will be Kristen Jane Anderson. At age 17, Kristen lost her legs in a suicide attempt. Today, she lives with passion and purpose. There will also be a silent auction, raffle prizes, live music and refreshments as part of our fundraising efforts.

- In the last decade, there have been 314 completed suicides in Brown County. In 2013 alone, 35 community members died by suicide, the highest number since 2009.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people in Wisconsin.
- Nationwide, one person completes suicide every 15.2 minutes and more than 34,500 die every year.
- 90% of those who die by suicide have a diagnosable psychiatric disorder at the time of death.

Be the Light Walk is an annual awareness and fund raising event of the Brown County Coalition for Suicide Prevention. The coalition is committed to promoting awareness that suicide is a public health problem that is preventable by providing education to decrease the stigma associated with mental health and suicide. The group engages in prevention strategies to reduce suicide in Brown County through grass roots efforts, including outreach, education and gatekeeper training utilizing the Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) program. The Bellin Health Foundation serves as fiscal agent for this coalition of over 30 organizations in addition to many community volunteers whose lives have been impacted by suicide. Donations can be made to the coalition by making checks payable to ‘Brown County Suicide Prevention Program Fund’ and mailed to:

Bellin Health Foundation
740 S Van Buren St
Green Bay, WI  54301

For more information and registration details, visit our website at www.bethelightwalk.com. For more information on the Brown County Coalition for Suicide Prevention, visit www.familyservicesnew.org/bccsp.

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