Federal Grant Allows Continued Services to Homeless Youth in Brown County

Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin has received a $900,000 grant from the Federal Family and Youth Services Bureau to continue its Homeless Youth Program in Brown County over the next five years.

(Green Bay, Wis.) – Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin was one of three recipients in the state to receive recent grant funding from the Federal Family and Youth Services Bureau. A grant totaling $900,000 will help fund the agency’s Homeless Youth Program for the next five years, providing transitional housing, independent living skills training, and intensive case management services for homeless youth, ages 17-21, in Brown County.

This funding is a renewal of a previous grant, allowing the program to continue its services to homeless and at-risk youth to help them find safe, stable housing and gain the skills necessary to live successfully on their own. As part of the grant funding, the program also assists with employability skills training, exploration of educational opportunities, interpersonal skill-building, community referrals for mental and/or physical health treatment, and substance abuse prevention information as needed. In the past five years, the program has served nearly 500 Green Bay area youth.

“Teens and young adults find themselves homeless for a variety of reasons,” says Meika Burnikel, Program Director. “Some are forced out of their homes due to poverty. Some have family issues or substance abuse issues. Some grew up in foster care and ended up on the streets or in homeless shelters. This program provides a chance for these youth to gain stability and learn to be self-sufficient. It gives them the chance to succeed.”

Family Services is a nonprofit human services agency that protects, heals and cares for the children and families of Northeast Wisconsin. Last year, the agency assisted more than 25,000 youth and their families through programs ranging from early childhood development and youth guidance to crisis services, counseling and self-sufficiency programs.

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FOR THE EDITOR:
About Family Services: 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. In 2012, more than 25,000 local children and families received assistance from Family Services.

About the Transitional Living Program: The Transitional Living Program of Family Services assists homeless youth and young adults in Brown County with learning the skills necessary to become self-sufficient and live independently. Case Managers work one-on-one with participants to develop an individualized transition plan to help them find safe and stable housing, employment, and other goals toward living successfully on their own.

Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc.
www.familyservicesnew.org