



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For more information, contact:
Meika Burnikel
Director, Transitional Living Program
920-438-1616 ext. 2101
mburnikel@familyservicesnew.org

Family Services' Homeless Youth Program Receives UWGB Strategic Philanthropy Grant

After a semester long research and interview process, students of the Strategic Philanthropy class at UW-Green Bay have selected Family Services' Transitional Living Program as the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Learning by Giving Foundation. Funds will be used to help homeless youth in the Green Bay area.

(Green Bay, Wis.) – Family Services' Transitional Living Program was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from students enrolled in UW-Green Bay's Strategic Philanthropy course, funded by the Learning by Giving Foundation. The selection was made following a semester long process to award a nonprofit that helped meet a significant community need. Based on research and group discussion, the class chose to focus on services that helped local youth who were struggling with issues such as homelessness, alcohol and other drug addiction, and mental illness.

The course is the only one of its kind in Wisconsin, giving students hands-on experience to learn about the process of philanthropic giving and to understand the needs in our community. "For me, this class has always been more about 'creating citizens' than awarding money," says Associate Professor, Lora Warner. "The money is a tool, an incentive for students to engage and learn about the community."

The grant will support the Transitional Living Program's services to homeless youth and young adults, ages 17-29, providing transitional housing, independent living skills training, and intensive case management services to guide them toward a successful future. "The program provides an innovative approach to not only addressing homelessness, but also assisting in developing a plan to address many of the other issues that come along with that," students wrote.

The Transitional Living Program currently has a waiting list of over 100 individuals. Brown County ranks second in the state for the number of homeless youth. For more information on services provided, visit www.familyservicesnew.org/transitional-living.

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Media Contact: Julie Cornette, Communications Coordinator, (920) 436-4360 ext. 1328
jcornette@familyservicesnew.org

FOR THE EDITOR:

Caption: *President & CEO, Jeff Vande Leest (3rd from left), and Program Director, Meika Burnikel (3rd from right), accept the check on behalf of Family Services' Transitional Living Program.*

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. Last year, we assisted more than 18,000 individuals and families during challenges and transitions in their lives.

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