



American Foundation of Counseling Services, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

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MORE Program receives \$200,000 in funding to help area homeless

GREEN BAY, Wis. – American Foundation of Counseling Services (AFCS) in conjunction with six partner agencies has received funding for the Mental-health Outreach Resource Expansion or MORE Program which offers mental health services for homeless individuals.

Partner agencies include:

- American Foundation of Counseling Services
- Bellin Health
- Golden House
- House of Hope
- New Community Shelter
- NEW Community Clinic
- St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter

This summer, the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation's U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs awarded a matching grant in the amount of \$100,000 for use in 2012 and 2013. The seven partner agencies then needed to secure a \$100,000 match to continue serving individuals with mental health issues at five area shelters.

Support for the program has been tremendous and matching funds have been secured to fund the program thru 2013. This was made possible by the generous support and commitment of the following:

- Green Bay Packer's Return to Titledown celebration provided matching funds in the amount of \$48,000
- K.C. Stock Foundation provided matching funds in the amount of \$10,000
- MORE partner agencies (7) committed \$42,000 (\$6,000 each)

*"The MORE Program is an important resource for the mental health needs of the chronically homeless in our community," said Packers President/CEO **Mark Murphy**. "The Packers are pleased to be able to support its efforts with proceeds from last February's Return to Titledown celebration in Lambeau Field".*

The MORE Program was created to address one of the greatest obstacles in helping homeless individuals empower themselves – mental health issues. Many of these issues cannot be overcome by counseling alone. Individuals often require mental health medication to stabilize them before they can take advantage of the other services offered at shelters.

The results of the program have been positive and have shown that the program has helped move homeless individuals into housing and has helped them secure income. Now, after 3 years, the program has results that support its original theory of stabilizing homeless individuals so they can better utilize the many supportive services offered. Some specific results are:

- Of all participants who engaged in some combination of therapy only, therapy with medication services, etc. – 29% of them obtained housing and 15% obtained an income.
- Most notable, however, were the results of the participants who followed the identified “best practice” (3 or more therapy sessions with 2 or more medication follow-up services). Of these individuals, 51% obtained housing and 35% obtained an income.

About the MORE Program

The MORE Program began in 2008 and is a mental health network that cares for persons experiencing homelessness and domestic violence in Brown County, WI. The network is made up of a full time masters or PhD level outpatient psychotherapist and a part time Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP). The outpatient therapist provides on-site customized mental health and psycho-educational services at partner agencies. The APNP provides on-site psychiatric evaluation, diagnosis, medication prescription, medication management, as well as supportive education and consultation to partner agency staff. Partner agencies develop requirements for their customized services, assist in the design of the services, provide case management for the continuum of care, and assist in outcome measurement. A critical component of this program is the opportunity to provide prescription medications and follow-up, as this is a service that would otherwise not be available to most of the people accessing these shelter and clinic services.

The program originally received a 3-year grant from the U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs, a fund of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation for 2009 thru 2011.

About AFCS

American Foundation of Counseling Services was established in 1965 by George Kress and Norman Vincent Peale with the original goal of providing training and counseling education to clergy and congregations in northeast Wisconsin. Today, AFCS provides outpatient counseling to individuals, regardless of their insurance coverage or ability to pay. The organization is also a state-licensed child placing agency, providing intensive out of home placement for children that have been a victim of abuse or neglect or who have delinquency issues. AFCS continues to work closely with the faith community in the area by providing pastor leadership groups, premarital counseling workshops, marriage enrichment seminars and individual consultation to clergy and church leadership teams. AFCS is affiliated with The Samaritan Institute of Denver, Colorado. To learn more about AFCS, visit www.americanfoundationonline.org or contact Bob Johnson at (920) 437-8256.