

Journeys

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You Can Care for Kids in Need

Read on for four ways to support Treatment Foster Care.

On any given day in Wisconsin, about 7,000 children are living with foster families. These families temporarily care for kids until they can be reunited with their own families.

The Center's Treatment Foster Care (TFC) program helps fill this vast need for loving homes. TFC director Amy Plettner currently supports four families licensed by the Center to provide 24-hour care for teens with emotional or behavioral challenges — adolescents who otherwise would be placed in an institution.

"Keeping these kids in a nurturing home better prepares them to live on their own and cope as adults," Plettner says.

As with all foster care, TFC is funded through county reimbursements. Unfortunately, recent Wisconsin legislation will decrease the Center's daily per-child reimbursement by nearly \$20, or about 20 percent.

"This change will make things really challenging for small TFC programs like ours," Plettner says. "Very few programs provide the faith-sensitive care we do, and that's really important to the families we serve."

What you can do:

Make a donation. Your monetary gift will help meet the need for faith-sensitive TFC and could bring to life in 2012 a summer day camp that gives TFC teens a caring, structured place to learn and grow while school's out.

Pray for TFC families. Like all the Center's programs, TFC integrates spirituality. Your prayers uphold TFC's children and families.

Become a TFC family. You can make a difference for a lifetime as a TFC parent. At present, kids awaiting TFC placement outnumber the homes available to them.

Create a TFC community. Your congregation can embrace TFC as a shared ministry. The Center encourages congregations to partner with a TFC family to provide transportation, meals, clothing and respite care.

For more information on the Center's TFC program or on how your congregation might become a TFC partner, please contact director Amy Plettner at (920) 886-9319.

Churches: Keep Your Members Safe

Violent situations can arise anywhere. What would *you* do if the unimaginable happened at *your* church one Sunday?

The Center's Clergy and Congregation Care (CCC) program offers answers with its upcoming "Food for Thought" program. UW-Oshkosh Counseling Center director Joe Abhold will explore factors at play in violent behavior and actions that can defuse violence. Co-hosted with Green Bay's American Foundation of Counseling Services.

What: Staying Calm in Crisis: De-Escalating Violence on Sunday Mornings
When: Thurs., Sept 29, 8–9:30 a.m. Thurs., Sept. 29, 12–1:30 p.m.
Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk Harmony Café
123 E. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah 1660 W. Mason St., Green Bay
Who: Clergy and church staff
Cost: \$25 per person (includes meal)
Register: Call Cathy Wille at (920) 886-9319



“This Is What We Do As A Church”

Congregation, grants and donors back new Kaukauna office.

In the wake of a cluster of suicides in Kaukauna, the community is struggling to heal. With your support, the Center has stepped in to help, launching Project Open Door in April. The program offers low- or no-cost counseling to children and their families.

Project Open Door is housed inside Immanuel United Church of Christ on Kaukauna's Sullivan Avenue. Psychotherapist Ammie Ebben provides faith-sensitive, sliding-fee counseling to community members.

Welcoming the program was an easy decision, says Immanuel's pastor, the Rev. Melinda Feller. “The council said, ‘This is what we do as a church.’”

Immanuel secretary Barb Edmondson adds, “I know people who have used the ministry who are so grateful to have it as a resource.”

The community has backed the Center's efforts with two \$10,000 grants awarded in June: one from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and one from the Schmidt Family G4 Fund within the Community Foundation.

Your Support Makes Silent Samaritan a Success

Campaign raises \$10,000 for women's counseling.

On May 5, some 60 women donors gathered to celebrate the more than \$10,000 they and others gave to the 2011 Silent Samaritan Campaign. The annual effort subsidizes counseling for women in need.

The campaign is vital, says executive director the Rev. Amy Bertschausen. “Up to 40 percent of our clients are uninsured and need some kind of fee assistance.”

Community First Credit Union president and CEO Catherine Tierney keyed the event, which culminated with the presentation of the 2011 Connie Steele Woman of Strength Award to Miriam Douglass, a chemistry professor at Fox Valley Technical College. Douglass served Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship as president and now co-chairs the congregation's Hunger and Homelessness Task Force.

The award Douglass received is named for the late Connie Steele, former senior legal counsel for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. She served on the Samaritan Center board.

Nominees included Kathy Buresh, Joyce Bytoff, the Rev. Janice Davis, Roberta Hackbarth, Amy Martin, Julie Schaller-Schmidt, Kristene Stacker, Dorothy Vayda and Judy Zaretzke.

The Samaritan Center thanks Miron Construction in Neenah for donating use of its Community Room for the Silent Samaritan Luncheon.

“We're so very grateful to Immanuel, the Schmidt Family G4 Fund and the Community Foundation for helping us bring wholeness to a community broken by tragedy,” says executive director the Rev. Amy Bertschausen.

To make a counseling appointment at the Kaukauna office, please call (920) 886-9319.



Center Grows with Help from Your Gifts

Four new staff members expand services and reach.

Judith Yocius, MA, LCSW, arrives from Minnesota with a passion for incorporating spirituality in psychotherapy. Her particular counseling interests are children and adolescents; chronic illness; aging; mortality issues; grief; and victims of severe abuse.

The Rev. Paola Benecchi joins the Rev. Jim Schmitz and the Rev. Amy Bertschausen in providing spiritual direction at the Center. As pastor at The Family Church, a Neenah United Methodist Church congregation, she leads interactive, family-focused worship.

Meredith Mason brings her nonprofit background to her role as client services specialist. She assists clients in choosing a counselor and answers their questions about the Center's services.

Lisa Strandberg comes to the Center as development and communications coordinator, helping raise both awareness of the Center and funds to support its mission. She brings her background as a writer and journalist to the role.

Profiles in Giving

Appleton's First Congo knits the Center into its heart.

Ministry takes many forms at Appleton's First Congregational United Church of Christ. For member Helen McKean, it comes bundled in skeins.

For five years, McKean has led First Congo's prayer shawl ministry. About a dozen members gather twice a week to knit, crochet, pray and chat as they create shawls for children and adults within and outside the congregation.

"We've made over 600 shawls now in five years," she says.

As one of First Congo's Primary Mission Partners, the Center and its counseling clients benefit from this ministry. Since 2007, counselors have presented a few First Congo prayer shawls each month to clients for whom such a gift would encourage healing.

The shawls, crafted with a repetitive "trinity" of stitches and blessed collectively by the ministry group, are a powerful symbol of comfort and hope. Says McKean, "We do have people who've received shawls who've said they can feel something from it."

Those who create them feel something as well. As they make the shawls, McKean says, they, too, are woven together, ministering to themselves while they minister to others.

First Congregational United Church of Christ founded Appleton Pastoral Counseling Center in 1970. That ministry grew into today's Samaritan Counseling Center.

Center Ministers to UCC Clergy

Samaritan therapists ease statewide transition.

The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) has put its faith in the Center's Clergy and Congregation Care (CCC) Program. The organization recently chose the CCC program to provide clergy development for the 228 congregations it serves.

Under the guidance of CCC director Cathy Wille, Center therapists will lead groups of UCC pastors in discernment and development. This process will accompany the Wisconsin Conference's transition through a significant staff restructuring.

"We're thrilled to partner with the Wisconsin Conference for this meaningful work," Wille says. "Supporting clergy and faith communities through times of transformation is an important focus of the Center and of CCC. This work has the potential to make a difference to thousands of faithful throughout the state."



Staff

Executive Director:

Rev. Amy Bertschausen, M.Div., BCC

Counselors:

Rosangela Bacciotti Berbert, MA, MSE, LPC

Doug Bisbee, MA, M.Div.

Megan Burdick-Grade, MA, LMFT, ATR-BC

Ammie Ebben, RN, MSE

Anne Fons, MPM, MA, LPC

Dede Harris, MSE, LPC w/ AODA specialty

John Peterson, M.Div., MS, LMFT, CSAC

Dee Savides, MSW, LCSW

Cathy Starck Wille, MA, MSE, LPC

Dee Verkuilen, MSE, NCC

Judith Yocius, MA, LCSW

Counseling Interns:

Heather Hofacker

Lisa Solberg

Treatment Foster Care:

Amy Plettner, MSW

Spiritual Directors:

Rev. Paola Benecchi

Rev. Jim Schmitz

Administrative Staff:

Jennifer Fox

Meredith Mason

Deb Woerpel-Larson

Development Coordinator:

Lisa Strandberg

Consultants:

Jeffery T. Junig, MD, Ph.D.

Steven Klein, Ph.D., MS, LPC

Board of Directors:

Jayne Latreille, president (Neenah)

Violet Tews, vice president (Oshkosh)

Jack Fry, secretary (Menasha)

Diane Lightfield, treasurer (Appleton)

Sarah Bassing (Appleton)

RoseAnn Blair (Neenah)

Rev. Richard Moore (Neenah)

Jone Oman (Oshkosh)

Dave Peperkorn (Neenah)

Renee Read (Appleton)

*When you say a situation or a person is hopeless,
you are slamming the door in the face of God.*

— Pastor, columnist and author Charles L. Allen

Formerly the Fox Valley
Pastoral Counseling Center



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We're on the Web! Visit us at www.samaritan-counseling.com

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Oshkosh

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Oshkosh, WI 54901
(920) 235-1678

New London

709 W. Pine St
New London, WI 54961
(920) 982-7863

Kaukauna

510 Sullivan Ave.
Kaukana, WI 54130
(920) 886-9319

Soothe your soul with the live jazz of Janet Planet, John Harmon, Dan Lueck and John Gibson while you support the Samaritan Center.



When: Friday, Oct. 7, 6:30–9 p.m.

Where: The Grand Meridian
2621 N. Oneida St., Appleton

What: Live music, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar,
door prizes and silent auction

Tickets: \$35 per person; \$60 per couple;
\$240 per table of eight

Register: (920) 886-9319

THE MISSION of the Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley is to be an expression of God's love, facilitating emotional healing and growth for women, men and youth — regardless of financial status or faith background — so that they may develop more fully their relationships with self, others and God.