



United Way Fox Cities

OUR WORLD. YOUR WORLD. A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL.

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IN THIS ISSUE

- The Results are In: United Way's PATH for Students Benefits All, According to Analysis. pg 1-2
- Community Campaign Kickoff. pg 2
- New Staff Welcomed at United Way Fox Cities pg 2
- \$1,500 Awarded in United Way Youth Board Grants pg 3
- \$35,000 Awarded in United Way Fox Cities Focused Funding Grants pg 3
- We say "Good-bye" to Gayle Hardt . . pg 4

MISSION STATEMENT

United Way Fox Cities improves lives by bringing diverse people together to build a stronger, more caring community for everyone.

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The Results Are In: United Way's Path For Students Benefits All, According To Analysis



United Way's PATH (Providing Access to Healing) for Students has its roots in the 2006 LIFE Study, a local community assessment published every five years.

The study identified access to mental health services as a critical issue in the Fox Cities after noting that

twenty-five percent of 10th graders had experienced depression and fourteen percent reported that they had attempted suicide.

In response to this data, United Way created the PATH program in 2008 to offer school-based mental health therapy. After a three-year pilot in the Menasha Joint School



District, the program has now expanded to serve over 600 students in ten school districts in the Fox Cities. Bringing the therapists to the schools has removed many of the barriers that prevented students from receiving care, including limited financial resources, parental work schedules and lack of transportation.

(Continued on Page 2)

PATH for Students Benefits All

(Continued from Page 1)

To better gauge the impact of United Way's PATH for Students on the community, a cost-benefit analysis was conducted in the fall of 2012 by the Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. **For 155 youth treated in a single school year, the net benefits of PATH totaled \$7,472,000 or approximately \$49,000 per student.** For students, the benefits include avoided medical costs, increased productivity and lifetime earnings, decreased risk of suicide and increased quality of life. School districts experience decreased truancy and decreased behavioral and counseling expenditures. For the community, there are avoided costs to the criminal justice system.

The results of the cost-benefit analysis confirms that United Way's PATH for Students is achieving positive net benefits and the recommendation from the La Follette School was to continue to expand United Way's PATH for Students in the community. As important as the study's results are, United Way also values feedback from the students. When one student commented, "I really think I want to live now," we knew that the PATH program is doing what we had hoped for – changing lives.



(Above) United Way's Community Campaign 2013 has kicked off! This year, we had 96 companies and community organizations represented at the kickoff hosted by SECURA Insurance. Everyone enjoyed great food, motown music and a powerful message about creating lasting change in community conditions through their investment in United Way.

New Staff Welcomed at United Way

We are happy to announce that United Way Fox Cities has welcomed several new staff members to the team:



Tony Gonzalez has joined United Way Fox Cities as Vice President of Community Development. Tony began his career with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) in 1990. Most recently, he was the executive director of the Thompson Community Center. Tony also served as the executive director at the American Red Cross, Outagamie County Chapter. At United Way Fox Cities, Tony will oversee all of our investments in the community; he will lead our efforts to create lasting change in community conditions.



United Way Fox Cities welcomes Josh Kilgas as a Resource Development Officer. Josh has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Fox Valley Technical College. While earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services from the University of Oshkosh, Josh interned with the United Way Fox Cities 2-1-1 Call Center.



Susan Perri has joined the United Way Fox Cities team as a part-time Marketing and Communications Assistant. Susan has her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. In 2005, she co-founded The Thailand Project, a non-profit working on the issue of statelessness in Thailand and for the past eight years, Susan has served as the organization's co-director.



Michele Losey started a part-time position as the United Way Fox Cities Youth Board Advisor and Teen Symposium Organizer. As Youth Board Advisor, she works with high school students interested in getting involved in the work United Way does in the community. Michele earned her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Oshkosh in Human Services and her Master of Arts at Lakeland College in Community Counseling.

(Right) Youth Go's 2013 service-learning trip to Floyd County in Eastern Kentucky sponsored in-part through a United Way Fox Cities' Youth Board Grant. During the trip, the group helped to make some basic upgrades to a home, including installing a wheelchair ramp. Kelly Hicks, Youth Go Director explains, "It was an amazing experience to help to make (their) home warmer and safer. It was even more amazing to watch the eight youth and one young adult come together as a family and pour their hearts into this project."



\$1,500 Awarded in United Way Fox Cities' Youth Board Grants

United Way Youth Board members comprise students from 12 area high schools. Twice per year, the Youth Board awards grants to youth-oriented programs in the Fox Cities. Grants were awarded to three organizations:

Kimberly High School: \$500

Small groups of high school students lead 3rd and 5th grade classrooms through a curriculum that creates awareness of the dangers of tobacco use.

Youth Go: \$500

The grant to Youth Go supported a Service Learning Trip to the Appalachian region. The students built a wheelchair ramp for a family in Kentucky.

Neenah High School: \$500

The grant will help fund a training retreat for LAUNCH Leaders at Neenah High School. These students will work with incoming freshman to help with the transition from middle school to high school. Topics include, bullying, alcohol/drug prevention and suicide awareness.

\$35,000 Awarded in United Way Fox Cities' Focused Funding Grants

United Way Fox Cities provides Focused Funding Grants twice per year. These grants are designed to promote approaches to solving community issues as well as to support existing program expansion. The following agencies received grants:

Community Clothes Closet: \$10,000

The Community Clothes Closet was established in 1980 to provide free clothing, blankets, towels and other household items to individuals and families in need. The grant will support their Clothing People, Changing Lives program.

Fox Valley Veterans Council: \$10,000

The Fox Valley Veterans Council was created in 2009 to provide emergency funding to meet the basic needs of area veterans. The grant will provide direct, temporary financial assistance for area veterans and military families to meet their basic needs when assistance is not available from other agencies or the assistance is insufficient to meet the need.

St. Elizabeth Hospital Foundation: \$15,000

The grant will fund Reach Out and Read, a national program that encourages literacy promotion as a standard part of pediatric care. Beginning at age six months, every child will receive a book during a well-child check. The program will be piloted with the ten providers at the Children's Health Center, serving approximately 4,200 children annually.

The New United Way 2-1-1 Website has Launched!

Make sure to check out the new website at www.211now.org and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/211UnitedWay. Susan Richards, United Way Fox Cities 2-1-1 Manager says, "The new website is easier for clients to use – with quicker access to service provider tools and more user-friendly search terms."

United Way Fox Cities says “good-bye” to Gayle Hardt after 21 years

We want to wish Gayle Hardt a happy retirement after 21 years of service at United Way Fox Cities. Gayle started at United Way in February 1992 and has lent her expertise and enthusiasm for making a difference in her community to United Way through the 2-1-1 Call Center, as a Community Development Program Officer and, most recently, as Vice President of Community Development. We will miss Gayle deeply, but wish her happy golfing, a wonderful retired life and thank her for her years of service!

(Right) Gayle Hardt’s Retirement Party hosted by United Way Fox Cities. During the party, Gayle was honored by friends and former co-workers who shared memories and stories of Gayle’s incredible work in the community through United Way Fox Cities.



Gayle Hardt



Peter Mariahazy



Jim Eagon



Jon Stellmacher