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Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Receives \$100,000 Grant from Bader Philanthropies, Inc.

Grant Allows for Growth of New School-Centered Mental Health Model

WEST ALLIS, Wis. (Feb. 3, 2019) – [Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan](#) (LSS) is the recipient of a generous grant from [Bader Philanthropies, Inc.](#)'s Isabel & Alfred Bader Fund, totaling \$100,000 over the next two years. LSS intends to use the grant to grow the new School-Centered Mental Health (SCMH) model, which is currently being piloted with the [United Community Center](#) (UCC) at Bruce Guadalupe Community Schools and Acosta Middle School.

“LSS believes in the strength of our school-centered mental health model, and we’re already seeing positive results from our pilot program with UCC,” said Héctor Colón, President and CEO of LSS. “This grant from Bader Philanthropies allows us to take that model and programming further, serving more students and families in the community. We appreciate the support we received throughout the development and piloting of our program and are grateful to our partners who will continue to co-create alongside us in the years to come.”

LSS’s comprehensive school-centered mental health model focuses on improving health equity of the children and families in communities throughout Wisconsin. LSS’ pilot program builds on the success of its school-based mental health programs by expanding beyond therapy in the school setting to providing a team made up of a therapist and a family coach who provide support and services at school and at home. The model features a coaching approach to empowering the child, the family, their school and community at large.

“The new school-centered mental health model is a promising resource that has the potential to transform generations of children and families throughout the greater Milwaukee area,” said Maria Lopez Vento, VP for Grants & Impact Investments. “LSS continues to be a vital connector of critical resources in our community and is fearless about piloting approaches that are game changers. This is one of the reasons Bader Philanthropies supports this project at the ground level, so we can bring it to all schools in our city.”

By aligning services and interventions across all areas of a youth’s life, the pilot is expected to yield longer lasting impact in the following areas: improved school attendance and academic achievement; decreased behavior referrals and challenging behaviors; improved safety and reduced violence; and improved relationships with peers, teachers and family while also providing parent education and addressing identified social determinants of health.

“Our partnership with Lutheran Social Services provides access to timely, quality bilingual mental health resources that students and families may otherwise have difficulty obtaining,” said Christin Johnson, Bruce Guadalupe Community Schools counselor and school liaison for SCMH pilot. “The fact that services are conveniently located within the comfortable UCC environment, coupled with the added layer

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of support from the family coach, makes this arrangement even more appealing for families. Identifying and providing support for student and family mental health needs both within and outside of school will help to promote the highest levels of student social and academic success.”

LSS operates on a continuum of care, offering community and residential services to best assist the individuals we serve. LSS has a long history of offering mental health services and using a trauma-informed care model. LSS is committed to providing integral care to the communities it serves. In addition to the grant from Bader Philanthropies, Inc., LSS has received grants for the SCMH pilot program from: [Aurora Healthcare Foundation](#), [The Charles E. Kubly Foundation](#), LSS Foundation, [PNC Foundation](#) and [WE Energies Foundation](#).

About Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.

Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan strives to build healthy communities filled with people using their God-given gifts to serve. For more than 100 years, this has been our goal. At LSS we value compassion, co-creation, change and courage, instilling these core values in every community and residential program we offer. We believe in the infinite worth of every individual and because of this, we are committed to the growth and empowerment of others. To learn more about how LSS acts compassionately, serves humbly and leads courageously, visit www.LSSwis.org.

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