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Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Receives Otto Bremer Trust Grant for Positive Avenues Daytime Resource Center

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (October 8, 2018) – [Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan](#) (LSS) is the recipient of a two-year grant totaling \$60,000 from the [Otto Bremer Trust](#) (OBT). These funds will support the Positive Avenues Daytime Resource Center, located at 320 Putnam St., in Eau Claire.

Positive Avenues provides a safe environment, along with a comprehensive array of social services for persons who are dealing with mental health and substance use issues, as well as those experiencing episodes of homelessness. Over the past several years, the need for services, safety, and security offered by Positive Avenues has grown exponentially. In 2017, Positive Avenues served more than 400 individuals, 90% of whom identified as being homeless. Positive Avenues has been a trusted presence in the Eau Claire area for more than 20 years and has developed a number of collaborations and partnerships to better serve the community.

“At LSS we believe in the infinite worth of every individual. Positive Avenues lives our mission everyday through the support it gives our communities,” said Héctor Colon, President and CEO of LSS. “The Otto Bremer Trust has given us the opportunity to continue impacting lives, building healthy communities and living out the LSS mission. As an organization, we are thrilled to receive this grant as it truly enhances the support we are able to give the individuals we serve.”

The program also provides crisis stabilization and case management services that support members in their recovery journey and facilitate access to community resources. Peer support plays an important role at Positive Avenues, allowing people who have successfully navigated their own recovery to offer hope and assist others in living full lives focused on wellness.

The OBT grant will support the continuation of extended program hours during the winter months, expansion of the food pantry and meal program, as well as the creation of additional office space to enhance service delivery. By providing respite from the outside elements, hot meals, clothing, personal hygiene items, a place to wash, and safe storage for belongings, Positive Avenues brings to life the LSS mission: to act compassionately, serve humbly, lead courageously.

“Positive Avenues provides basic and specialized services to individuals facing significant challenges,” said Brian Lipschultz, co-CEO and trustee, Otto Bremer Trust. “This grant will increase the organization’s ability to help its members as the demand for case management and crisis stabilization services increases.”

The Otto Bremer Trust awards annual grants through a competitive application and review process.

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.

About the Otto Bremer Trust

The Otto Bremer Trust, based in St. Paul, Minn., is a private charitable trust established in 1944 by founder Otto Bremer, a successful banker and community business leader. OBT owns 92 percent of Bremer Bank and also manages a diversified investment portfolio. The mission of OBT is to invest in people, places and opportunities in the Upper Midwest. Since its inception, OBT has invested more than \$600 million in organizations throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and western Wisconsin. Visit ottobremer.org.

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