



## WCS Connection October 2018



*From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:*

### Reflections on Serving the Community

As we enter the final quarter of 2018, WCS looks to end the year in a very positive way. It is hard to believe that the year is already drawing to a close. Like many of you, I find myself asking where the time has gone. Time passes quickly for organizations like Wisconsin Community Services who are working hard every day to improve and enhance services and programs so that the individuals we serve and the partners we work with are better off. The staff and board of WCS takes this responsibility very seriously and are passionate about delivering the best possible services in all the communities in which we are fortunate enough to serve. Since our inception in 1912, WCS has established itself as a key resource and provider of services in Milwaukee, Waukesha, and other counties in southeast Wisconsin. In essence, we are really your community resource and exist to meet the needs of systems, neighborhoods, and individuals who are challenged with some of life's most difficult issues. Our focus for 2018 has been to strengthen efforts to meet significant needs and challenges in our community, and, where possible, intervene earlier to improve short and long-term prospects for recovery and success in each individual's life. Much of 2018 has been about strengthening and expanding programs that were launched in 2017, strengthening community partnerships, and implementing new WCS programs such as our Office of Consumer Affairs Peer Support Specialist program. We also celebrated the 10th year anniversary of the opening of the Center for Driver's License Recovery and Employability (CDLRE). Our efforts to finish the year strong will include a successful opening of Bakari Center. I invite you to take the time to read about the Bakari Center in this edition.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clarence Johnson".

**For over 10 years, case managers at the Center for Driver's License Recovery & Employability (CDLRE) have been helping program participants regain their driver's license.**

**Pictured above is a CDLRE program participant who just got his driver's license back.**



## Introducing Bakari Center

WCS is excited to further our mission by implementing an innovative program at a new location called Bakari Center. Bakari, which means “noble promise,” was intentionally chosen by WCS. This name reflects our promise to the community and the children that we serve to provide the highest quality services to meet the needs of each youth served at the Center. Bakari Center is a partnership with the Milwaukee County Division of Youth and Family Services to provide residential treatment services for boys ages 13 to 17 years old who are involved in the juvenile justice system. A third partner, Lad Lake, will provide clinical services for youth and their families. The partnership is focused on aiding youth in the community and as an alternative to placement in the Department of Corrections.

The programming offered at Bakari Center will focus on building from each of the youth’s many strengths to support their growth and development. This innovative project will implement two evidence-based clinical approaches to support youth developing skills to reach their life goals. Bakari Center will be using an Integrated Treatment Model and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy will be the clinical component utilized within the programming to support youth and their families to develop skills to navigate adversity and life’s challenges. WCS is committed to ensuring youth successfully transition back into their homes and communities following their stay at Bakari Center. A team of clinicians will engage the youth and their families in Multi-Systemic Therapy to provide comprehensive aftercare services. Family engagement and developing a strong support system around each youth will be a focus throughout the program. Bakari Center is scheduled to open later this year.



## WCS Receives Outstanding Partnership Award

WCS was honored on September 19, 2018 for our Outstanding Partnership with the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC). MCSC and WCS have worked together to train individuals who have gained employment in the construction sector. The award was presented by MCSC at their annual fundraising dinner. Matt Knitter, *WCS Facilities Manager*, Jay Tucker, *WCS Workforce Development Program Director*, and Artis Landon, *WCS Community and Reintegration Services Administrator*, accepted the award on behalf of WCS.



## Share Your Heart!

*Heart of Canal Street* is Potawatomi Hotel & Casino’s signature community program. This year marks its 25th anniversary. Half of each \$3 or \$7 Canal Street Bingo game purchased goes to the *Heart of Canal Street* fund, which totaled more than \$1.1 million last year and provided funding to children’s charities in southeastern Wisconsin. Project Excel, a program of WCS, is in the running to be a 2018 charity. Help give





## Outstanding Legacy Partner Award

On October 6, 2018, Jay Tucker, *WCS Workforce Development Program Director*, accepted the Outstanding Legacy Partner Award on behalf of WCS and the Center for Drivers' License Recovery and Employability (CDLRE). The Community Development Block Grant Administration (CDBG) Administrator, Steve Mahan, presented the award recognizing the valued relationship between the CDLRE and the Fatherhood Initiative. The CDLRE has been a supportive partner of the Fatherhood Initiative for over five

years, assisting young fathers to recover their driver's licenses so that they can support themselves, their families and their communities.

## Career Opportunities at WCS

WCS is currently looking for energetic people to fill these positions:

### Clinical Therapist

A clinical therapist is part of our new Residential Care Center program. This position is responsible for in-home individual counseling of residents and their families in planning, implementing, and coordinating services and resources. Applicants must have a master's degree in a social or behavioral science field and a minimum license of LCSW, LPC, or LMFT.

### Certified Peer Specialist (CORE)

The peer support specialist provides support to youth and young adults who are being served by the CORE program. This position is responsible for providing support, education, and mentoring to all program participants. Applicants must be a graduate of state Certified Peer Specialist training and possess current certification.

### Case Manager (Milwaukee County Day Reporting Center)

Case managers provide supervision for adults referred to the program by the Milwaukee County House of Correction. They assess referred participants for eligibility using the LS-CMI and develop individual supervision plans. Case managers monitor all participant activity and progress with all service providers at the Reporting Center. Applicants should have prior experience with case management and a degree in criminal justice is preferred.

Visit our website to learn more and find a listing of additional opportunities!

## Did You Know?

WCS has four core values:

Justice

Respect

Integrity

Pursuit of Excellence



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*Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. (WCS) advocates for justice and community safety, providing innovative opportunities for individuals to overcome adversity.*

WCS is a 501(c) 3 non-profit agency that provides services in southeastern Wisconsin.  
WCS has been serving the community successfully for over 100 years.



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