



WCS Connection June 2018



From the desk of the WCS Executive Director:

Jim Gramling To Lead the WCS Board of Directors

James Gramling was recently named as the President of the WCS Board of Directors. James, or Jim as most of us call him, has a long and illustrious history of advocating for disenfranchised and marginalized individuals in the Milwaukee community and throughout the state of Wisconsin. Jim is a former City of Milwaukee Municipal Court judge who presided over thousands of cases during his time on the bench. Jim believes in justice, equity and fairness, as well as accountability and community safety. His approach, however, to community safety is to empower individuals, help to create a level playing field, and advocate for policy and legislative changes. In the cases of changes to policy and legislation that could have the result of being oppressive and punitive, he instead favors policy and legislation that trends toward being restorative and empowering. During Judge Gramling's time on the bench, he came to realize that driver's license suspensions and revocations tended to have a disproportionately adverse impact on those who are poor and living in poverty, as well as individuals from minority groups. Subsequent to leaving the bench, Jim joined forces with Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), the City of Milwaukee, and Legal Action of Wisconsin to create the Center for Driver's License Recovery and Employability (Center). The Center opened its doors in 2007 and became part of WCS in 2009. Its programming has served almost 11,000 persons, helping to restore the driving privileges of thousands of individuals. The legislative accomplishments of the Center are equally impressive and have positively affected the lives of tens of thousands over the same time. Jim Gramling's passion for improving the quality of life in our communities is evident in numerous other projects that he is involved with at a significant level. With Jim's high level of integrity, knowledge and caring, we are excited about what his leadership holds for WCS!





WCS Program Wins National Award - HUD Announces Winners of 2018 Healthy Homes Awards

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) and Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. (WCS) were recently notified that Thurgood Marshall Apartments was named as one of four winners of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Healthy Homes Awards in the category of Public Housing. HUD partners with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) to recognize projects that demonstrate excellence in making indoor environments healthier through healthy homes. Criteria

for winning awards include demonstration of the health impact on population, policy programs, impact on the physical environment, economic sustainability, partnership/collaboration and measurability. Thurgood Marshall Apartments in Milwaukee takes an innovative approach to the seemingly hopeless dilemma of chronic homelessness. Thurgood Marshall Apartments is a partnership involving WCS, the Milwaukee County Housing Division, Cardinal Capital Management, and WHEDA. The project provides 24 one-bedroom units of permanent supportive housing for very low-income adults who are chronically homeless and who suffer from chronic alcoholism. The three other award winners include the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative in Baltimore, Fort Collins Healthy Homes Program and DIY Assessment Tool, Fort Collins, Colorado, and North Carolina State University, and Tulane University School of Public Health. The Healthy Homes Award was initiated in 2015 to showcase results achieved under a wide range of housing and indoor environmental health programs.

The picture at the top of the newsletter features the front of the Thurgood Marshall Apartments, located in Milwaukee's Halyard Park Neighborhood, and two residents talking in the garden area of the apartments.



The YES Program

The Youth Enhanced Support (YES) Program is an early intervention program for youth displaying behaviors of habitual tardiness and truancy. The program was developed with input from WCS and the School District of Waukesha. It is designed to address these behaviors prior to a truancy petition being filed and follows an intensive supervision model for a duration of 60 to 90 days, depending on the youth's participation and progress in the program. The YES Program offers support to children with attendance issues and their parents through means such as transportation assistance, incentives for reaching attendance goals, individualized homework and classwork aid, as well as an opportunity to learn and practice real life skills during meeting times. Since the program's inception in October 2017, 66% of new participants saw a significant reduction in their number of truant hours and the number of tardy hours have decreased significantly. The YES Program is funded by United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County.



WCS: A Leader in the United Way Campaign



2017 was another very successful year for the United Way Campaign at WCS. Over 70% of the 300+ WCS staff made a donation! As a result, WCS was requested by United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County to participate on the Ambassador Panel at the United Way's Center of Excellence Conference to share insights into how the agency is able to do so well each year. The Center of Excellence Conference is a grouping of employees chosen from high performing United Way offices across the country. Over 35 guests met to discuss and set best-in-class standards in the execution of workplace United Way campaigns. Melissa Streeter, WCS Development & Communication Associate, is a long-time member of the planning committee for the WCS United Way campaign and participated as part of the Ambassador Panel at the Conference. Melissa described how WCS keeps our campaign fresh and fun each year for our employees. She also explained the emphasis WCS puts on donating to the United Way's Community Fund during the campaign because so many programs depend on that money including several programs at WCS. Conference attendees were treated to the same fun WCS flashlight pens that were given as gifts to WCS employees during last year's United Way campaign! Other local members of the panel included Nafessa Jackson, from ManpowerGroup, and Jan Barkby, from Fiduciary Real Estate Development.



Career Opportunities at WCS

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

Clinical Therapists

Be a part of a new program for youth and their families, in a brand new residential setting! Training is provided by national experts in the treatment modality, in addition to ongoing professional training through WCS. We are seeking two Clinical Therapists for our Residential Care Center. The Center works with youth ages 12-17 who are under supervision through Milwaukee County Accountability Program, multi-system (delinquency and CHIPS), Wraparound Milwaukee, and after-care upon release from a juvenile correctional facility.

Youth Care Worker (second shift)

Youth Care Workers provide supervision to the youth (boys or girls) placed in the WCS shelter care programs. They are responsible for implementing the daily schedule of program activities, provide group educational and recreational activities, and provide mentorship to youth in the program. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED/HSED and a minimum of one year of experience with young people of a similar age to the individuals in the program (ages 14 to 17). Youth Care Workers will work a schedule that is a blend of weekdays and alternating weekends.

[Visit our website to learn more!](#)

Did You Know?

WCS has been receiving support from the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County since 1928.

At the time United Way was known as the Milwaukee County Community Fund.



Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.
3732 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 320
Milwaukee, WI 53208
Phone: 414-290-0400
Fax: 414-271-4605
www.wiscs.org

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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