

Pavillon Treatment Center Receives Grant to Carry Message of Prevention & Hope to Area Youth

Mill Spring, Feb. 17, 2011 – A \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Henderson County will provide much needed financial assistance the children’s outreach, addiction education and prevention program offered through Pavillon Treatment Center.

The program targets at-risk youth, ages K-12. It is implemented through a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County. It provides age-appropriate education on addiction, values clarification, and healthy coping and communication skills to all children participating in their after-school program. Children participating in the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County automatically qualify for the program by virtue of the partnership with Pavillon.

And while the children’s program is offered by Pavillon in six Western North Carolina counties, including Polk County, these specific grant funds will be used exclusively to deploy the program through the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County.

Over the past year, the program reached 150 children through the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County, both in after-school and summer camp programs, all of which were free of charge. A total of 374 children were reached in the broader program across Western North Carolina.

“This grant, for which we are most grateful, will help us to offset some of the operating expenses related to development and delivery of this very important program,” said Anne Vance, CEO for Pavillon.

The program educates children about substance abuse and teaches them how to make healthy choices while identifying a safe support system should they or someone they love have a substance abuse problem.

It focuses on helping children to:

- Understand alcoholism and addiction as a disease
- Identify comfortable and uncomfortable feelings
- Identify at least three positive ways to deal with uncomfortable feelings
- Identify at least three positive people/activities that can help them make healthy choices
- Name at least two places where they can go for support if their parents have substance abuse issues

The results of a 2009-2010 survey from the United Way of Henderson County, illustrates the level of need for such a program. That survey found that illegal drug use, substance abuse and mental health services topped the list as major health issues facing the county.

There are approximately 14,000 school-age children in Henderson County and another 2,500 in Polk County. Virtually all of them are at risk for using drugs or alcohol according to the North Carolina Institute of Medicine Task Force on Substance Abuse Services.

Circumstances that place children at greater risk of substance abuse include poverty, physical and/or emotional abuse or neglect, exposure to drug sales,

exposure to gang activity, bullying, familial criminal activity and lack of proper supervision.

“Through our valued partnership with Pavillon, the children who participate in this program continue to benefit from improved physical and mental health; improved school performance, self-esteem and communication skills; and increased socialization,” said Kevin Lauritsen, Executive Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County.

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Pavillon Treatment Center provides residential and outpatient treatment, education and support for alcoholism and substance abuse for patients and families from around the nation. Pavillon is not-for-profit and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Services, CARF. Learn more at www.pavillon.org or call 828.694.2300.

The Community Foundation of Henderson County supports charitable programs in the greater Henderson County area. It was founded in 1982 and administers over 400 funds with assets over \$69 million. Learn more at www.cfhcforever.org

The Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County is dedicated to delivering services that meet the individual needs of youth in the community. Programs help youth achieve in school, prepare for careers and family life, stay active and fit, serve the community, express creativity and choose positive, personal actions. Learn more at www.bgchendersonco.org or call 828.693.9444

The Children’s Program at Pavillon is looking for volunteers for the summer. For information, contact Rachael Haynes-Wood, program director at 694.2300, Ext. 225.