



amberwing

CENTER FOR YOUTH & FAMILY WELL-BEING

FACT SHEET

Mental illness/chemical dependency is the number one disability in the United States.

(World Health Organization, 2004)

More than \$193.2 billion is lost in individual earnings each year to mental illness.

(Time Magazine, 2008)

A Mental Health Epidemic Among Our Young People

- Half of all lifetime mental illness cases begin by age 14; three quarters by age 24. (National Institute of Mental Health, 2005)

In Minnesota:

- An estimated one in five Minnesota children experience a serious diagnosable mental health disorder with related behavior and emotional problems. (MN Department of Health, 2002)
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-olds (MN Department of Health, 2008) and the third leading cause of death for 10- to 14-year-olds. (2008 Report to the Governor and Legislature, State Advisory Council on Mental Health)

In Wisconsin:

- 18 percent of high school students reported having seriously considered suicide. (2005 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey)
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15- to 19-year-olds and the fourth leading cause among 10- to 14-year-olds. (Wisconsin Teen Suicide Fact Sheet, August 2006)

Locally:

- Each month in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin, we lose an average of two children or young adults to suicide or drug overdose. (Based on 2009 information from the *Duluth News Tribune*, St. Louis County Medical Examiner and area mental health professionals)
- Twelfth-grade girls in Duluth are twice as likely to attempt suicide as those in the rest of St. Louis County and Minnesota. (J. Gilly and J. Larson, *A Look at Teen Suicide: How does St. Louis County Compare*, Public Health and Human Services, March, 2006)

The Need for Access to Mental Health Care

- 90 percent of teenagers who die by suicide have a mental health problem, usually depression, substance abuse or both. (National Institute of Mental Health, 2001)
- Untreated mental health problems impact the child, family, schools and communities emotionally and financially and have implications for both short-term and long-term quality of life.
- Mental illness is treatable and suicide is preventable—80 percent of those who are treated get well. (save.org)

What is Amberwing?

- Miller-Dwan Foundation has raised \$5.8 million out of the \$6 million it needs to build Amberwing, a new mental health and wellness center in Duluth Heights off of Pecan Avenue.
- Amberwing will serve children and young adults from birth through age 25.
- Amberwing is the result of over three years of coordinated work between Miller-Dwan Foundation, Miller-Dwan Behavioral Health, Essentia Health and numerous area professionals to:
 - increase access to mental health and chemical dependency services in our region
 - increase the number of mental health professionals in our region by attracting people to the area and providing internship opportunities
 - create a model of care that employs evidence-based practices and innovative holistic care to patients and their families
 - support and educate patients and families throughout the region with a resource center, open to everyone and staffed by knowledgeable professionals
 - provide increased and age-appropriate services to 18- to 25-year-olds
 - reduce the stigma associated with seeking mental health and chemical dependency care
- 60 children, adolescents and young adults, along with their families, will be served each day—nearly five times more than can currently be served.
- The 25,800-square-foot center will provide mental health and chemical dependency treatment and programming designed to help young people and their families deal with their illnesses and serious emotional or behavioral challenges.
- Participants will be divided into four programming groups geared to their development level: Pre-kindergarten to grade 5, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. An intensive outpatient program will be provided for young adults ages 18-25.
- The center will provide support, information, referrals, advocacy and education to parents and families throughout the entire region.
- Community meetings and education spaces will be available for organizations and groups that focus on the areas of mental health and wellness and chemical dependency.
- Unlike a traditional clinic or hospital, the center is being designed to look like a lodge and have a warm, home-like feel.

GIVE VOICE NOW

- Give Voice Now is a grassroots community campaign that seeks to:
 - raise the last \$1 million needed to make Amberwing a reality
 - reach out to young people who are suffering in silence and give them a voice
 - let young people and their families know that Amberwing will be a place where they can get the help they need to heal and become healthy
- More information, as well as ways to give, can be found at givevoicenow.com. Donations of all kinds are being accepted to raise the remaining funds to build Amberwing.