



# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA (AMENDED)

Date & Time of Meeting: **Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location: **WebEx/ Courthouse Assembly Room (B105), 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

Committee Members: Tim Buttke, Chair; Michelle Van Krey, Vice-chair; Kelley Gabor, Dennis Gonnering, William Harris, Donna Krause, Tom Seubert

**Marathon County Mission Statement:** *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

**Committee Mission Statement:** *Provide leadership for the implementation of the strategic plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to health and human services initiatives of Marathon County.*

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Health & Human Services Committee members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. Instead of attendance in person, Committee members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Committee members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

**Phone#: 1-408-418-9388**

**Access Code: 146 159 7938**

The meeting will also be broadcast on Public Access or at <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)** *(Any person who wishes to address the County Board, or one of its committees, during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting.)*
3. **Approval of the December 1, 2021, Health & Human Services Committee Meeting and the January 5, 2022, Joint Public Safety and Health & Human Services Committee Meeting Minutes**
4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:**
5. **Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:**
6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
  - A. ADRC Update Presentation
  - B. KATS Presentation
  - C. **Update on proposed revisions to the Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing a Multi-County Department of Community Programs – North Central Community Services Program**
7. **Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
  - B. Next Scheduled Meeting: **March 2, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**
7. **Adjournment**

*\*Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 261-1500 or e-mail [countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting*

**SIGNED** /s/ Tim Buttke  
Presiding Officer or Designee

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and  
Other Media Groups

BY: T. Ranallo

DATE & TIME: 2/01/2022 at 6:00am

BY: Clerk's Office

DATE & TIME: 2/01/2022 at 9:00am



# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

WebEx/ Courthouse Assembly Room (B105), 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Tim Buttke	X	
Vice Chair Michelle Van Krey	X	
Kelley Gabor	Phone	
Dennis Gonnering	W	
William Harris	W	
Donna Krause	X	
Tom Seubert	W	

**Also present:** Lance Leonhard, Michael Puerner, Dave Mack, Laura Scudiere, Debra Ryan, and Toshia Ranallo.

**WebEx/Phone:** Craig McEwen, Amy Litzer.

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Buttke called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**2. Public Comment**

Amy Litzer, 500 Grand Avenue Wausau, WI 54403, voiced her support for public transportation in all areas of Wausau and the surrounding communities. She suggested local municipalities should contribute and share costs to better serve the citizens who need transportation. Litzer also expressed concerns with a few Metro Ride bus drivers.

**3. MOTION BY HARRIS; SECOND BY VAN KREY TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 3, 2021, HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination: None**

**5. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:**

- A. Approval of the 2022 Elderly and Disabled Transportation (85.21) Grant Application (Dave Mack)

**Discussion:**

Marathon County Planning Manager Dave Mack gave background on a grant program that provides transportation for the elderly and disabled in Marathon County. The grant application will request \$667,550 for program expenses to provide rides for those citizens. Also included in the application are the replacement of seven bus shelters to become ADA compliant.

Supervisors requested yearly and/or monthly numbers of riders utilizing the program. Dave Mack indicated he will provide the information to the committee.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY KRAUSE; SECOND BY GONNERING TO RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL OF THE 2022 ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSPORTATION (85.21) GRANT APPLICATION. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Up:**

Forward to the county board.

- B. Update on Strategic Plan Objective 7.2 Progress by Staff

**Discussion:**

Health Officer Laura Scudiere gave a presentation related to progress made on Strategic Plan Objective 7.2. Her presentation can be viewed in the packet on the county website [located here](#).

**Follow Up:**

Committee members to review strategic plan objectives and focus on topics for discussion to achieve plan goals.

**6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion - None**

**7. Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:**

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting: **January 5, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.**

**7. Adjournment**

**MOTION BY KRAUSE; SECOND BY VAN KREY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:02 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**

The recording of the meeting can be accessed at the link below. <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

Respectfully submitted by,  
Toshia Ranallo



**MARATHON COUNTY  
JOINT PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE'S  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at 2:00 pm  
WebEx/Courthouse Assembly Room, (B105), Courthouse, 500 Forest St., Wausau**

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
<b>Public Safety Committee Members</b>		
Chair Matt Bootz	X	
Vice Chair Brent Jacobson	W	
Jennifer Bizzotto	W	
Bruce Lamont	W	
Jean Maszk	W	
Allen Opall	X	
<b>Health &amp; Human Services Committee Members</b>		
Chair Tim Buttke	X	
Vice Chair Michelle Van Krey	W	
Kelley Gabor		X
Dennis Gonnering	W	
William Harris	W	
Donna Krause	Phone	
Tom Seubert	W	

**Also present/WebEx:** Kurt Gibbs, Michael Puerner, Jeff Johnson, Becky Buch, Craig McEwen, Kim Trueblood, Chad Billeb, Theresa Wetzsteon, Kelly Schremp, Toshia Ranallo, and members from the public.

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Bootz called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Chair Buttke called the Health & Human Services Committee meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

**2. Public Comment** – the following citizens provided public comment opposing Agenda Item 4.A *Updating the Marijuana Possession Ordinance*, to reduce the penalty to \$50 for possessing 25 grams or less of marijuana.

1. Erin Crawford, 234905 Clay Rd. Aniwa
2. Joanne Leonhard, 923 Maple Hill Rd, Wausau
3. Keith Jaeger, 1619 Summit Dr. Wausau

**3. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination - None**

**4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**

- A. Updating The Marijuana Possession Ordinance

**Discussion:**

Chair Bootz noted that the possession of marijuana continues to remain a criminal offense at the state and federal level and the laws are not within the committee’s purview to change.

Input was given by Supervisor Jeff Johnson in favor of reducing penalties for possessing 25 grams or less of marijuana. Corporation Council Michael Puerner offered information comparing state statutes. District Attorney Theresa Wetzsteon gave Marathon County statistics on cases involving marijuana. Chief Deputy Chad Billeb from the Sherriff’s office provided feedback on how the law is enforced. Supervisors expressed opinions.

**Action:**

*Public Safety Committee:*

**MOTION BY OPALL; SECOND BY LAMONT TO REJECT ALL PROPOSALS TO UPDATE THE MARIJUANA POSSESSION ORDINANCE. MOTION CARRIED. Not unanimous.**

*Health & Human Services Committee:*

**MOTION BY HARRIS; SECOND BY VAN KREY TO REFER FURTHER DISCUSSION TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL (CJCC) TO ASSESS AND DEVELOP A MARIJUANA POSSESSION ORDINANCE. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Up:**

Forward to the CJCC for discussion.

5. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
6. **Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
  - B. Next meeting: Public Safety **Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 1:30 pm**
  - C. Next meeting: Health & Human Services **Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 4:00 pm**

7. **Adjournment**

**MOTION BY VANKREY; SECOND BY GONNERING TO ADJOURN THE HHSC MEETING AT 3:32P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY OPALL; SECOND BY MASZK TO ADJOURN THE PS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 3:32 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Toshia Ranallo

[Click here to view the recording of the meeting.](#)

# Keep Area Teens Safe (KATS)

**Kathy Buckli – Executive Director**  
**Ashley Ciancio – Assistant Director**



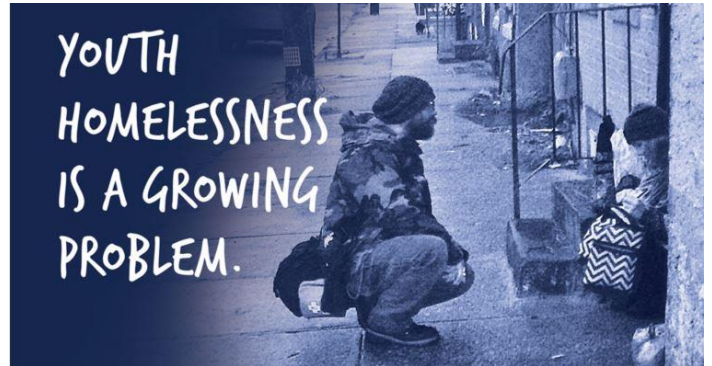
# What is KATS?

- Keep Area Teens Safe (KATS) is a non-profit donation and grant-based facility serving runaway and homeless youth as a bridge to services for kids in unstable situations. We provide safe and secure housing, meals, case management, connection to mentorship, academic support, and other community services for youth in central Wisconsin. We focus on creating a welcoming and trauma-informed environment for the youth populations we serve.



# What does youth homelessness look like?

- There is a common misconception that youth must be living on the streets to be homeless.
- “Silent Population”
  - Youth couch surfing by staying with family members or friends
  - Youth experiencing family conflict and possibly an unsafe home environment
  - Sleeping in parks, laundromats, and churches
  - Trafficked youth staying with traffickers
  - Youth placed in multiple foster care homes over short periods of time
  - Runaway youth





# Youth homelessness means a high risk for:

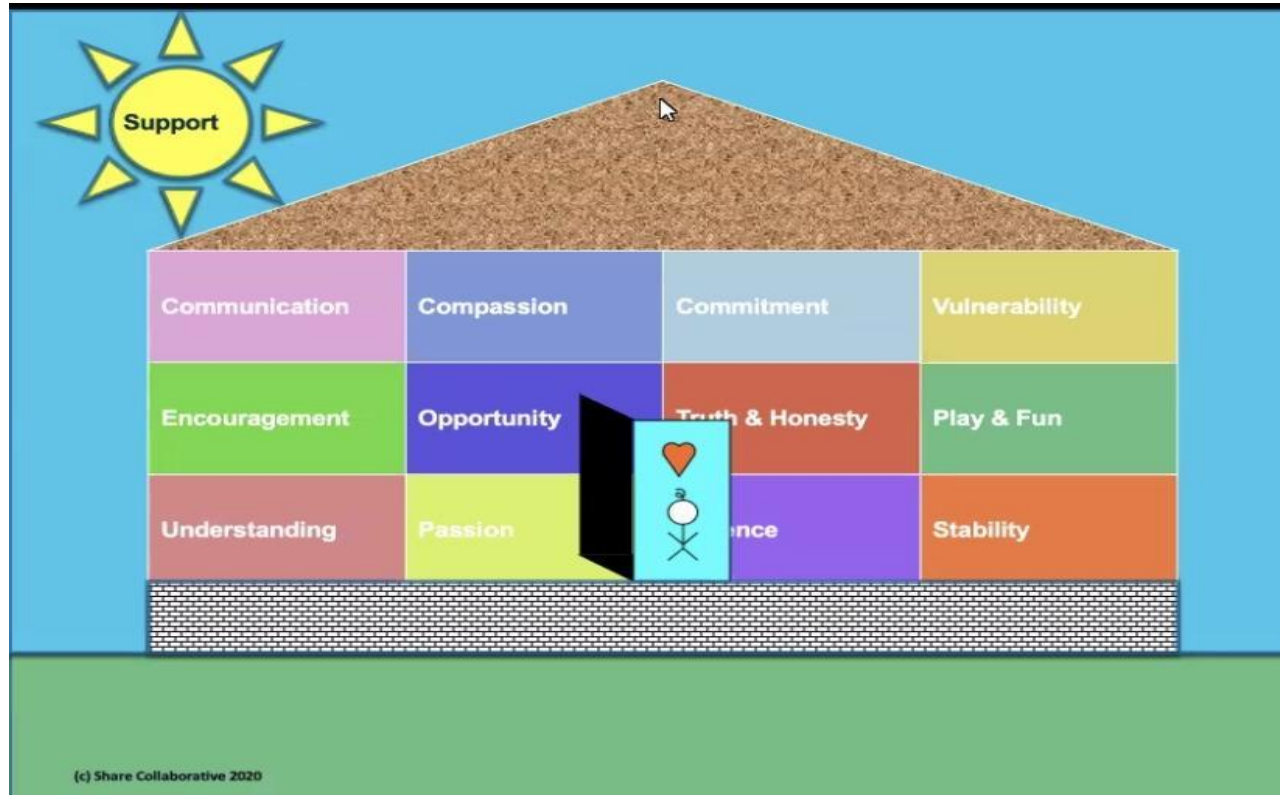
- Abuse (sexual, emotional, physical, substance, and neglect)
- Difficulty forming trusting and healthy relationships
- Running away from home
- Human trafficking
- Use of illicit drugs and alcohol
- Mental illness
- Lack of education
- Hunger and malnutrition
- Suicide



# Why are youth homeless?

- Every situation is different, but common reasons for youth homelessness include:
  - Neglect and Abuse - physical, verbal, sexual, emotional
  - Family conflict
  - Loss of family income
  - Evictions
  - Poverty
  - Mental Illness
  - Substance abuse/addiction
  - Victims of human trafficking
  - Domestic Violence

# What a healthy home looks like:



# Statistics - Nationwide

- According to the “Voices of Youth Count” from the University of Chicago:
  - 1 in 30 youth between the ages of 13-17 have experienced a form of homelessness unaccompanied by a parent or guardian over the course of one year
  - 29% of homeless youth report having substance misuse problems
  - 69% of homeless youth report mental health problems
  - 33% of homeless youth had once been within the foster care system
  - 50% of homeless youth have been in the juvenile justice system, in jail, or detention
  - 62% of LGBTQ youth report being physically harmed while experiencing homelessness

**One in 10 young adults ages 18-25 experienced homelessness over a 12-month period.**



That's approximately 3.5 million young adults

**One in 30 youth ages 13-17 experienced homelessness over a 12-month period.**

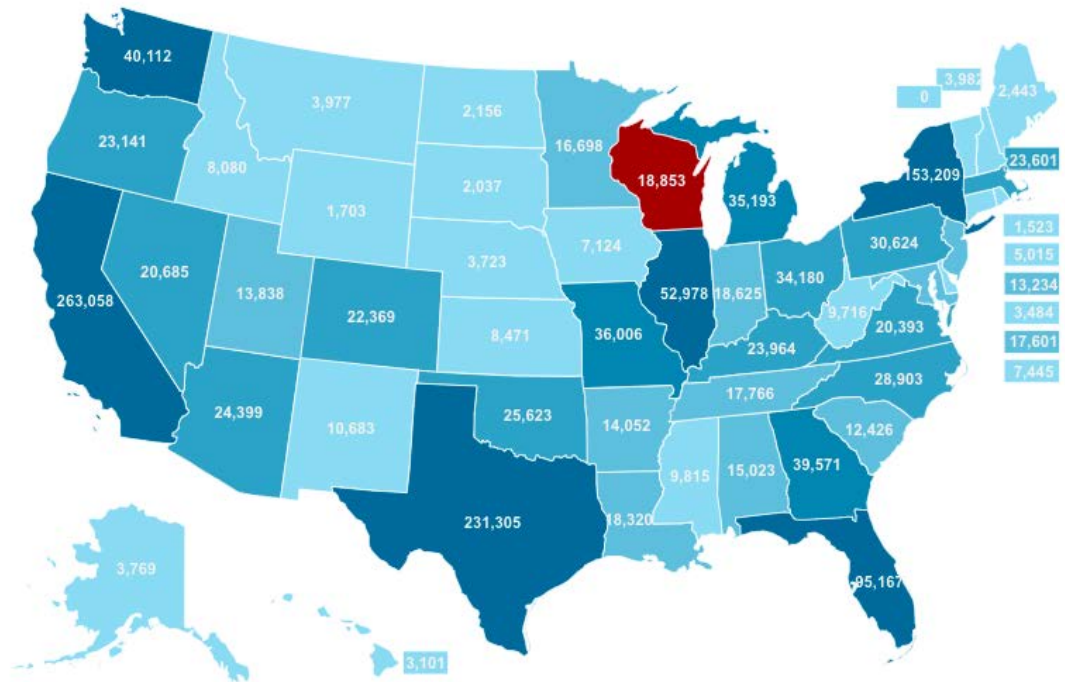


That's approximately 700,000 youth

# Statistics - Wisconsin

- Public School data reported to the U.S. Department of Education during the 2017-2018 school year shows that an estimated **18,853** Wisconsin public school students experienced homelessness over the course of the year. Of that total, **316** students were unsheltered, **2,257** were in shelters, **1,176** were in hotels/motels, and **15,104** were doubled up in more than one location.
- In 2018, **11.6%** of high school students in Marathon county reported sleeping somewhere other than their family home for extended periods of time.

Total People Experiencing Homelessness



# What we do at KATS!

- Provide a **safe space** for youth to stay for up to 20 days with parent/guardian permission
- Assist case managers in **finding long-term placement** for residents
- Teach residents **life-skills** including cooking, laundry, cleaning, financial responsibility, etc.
- **Group talks** for residents to engage in conversations around diverse topics
- **Educational programming** and support for residents
- Providing opportunities for residents to become involved in **community programs**
- **Recreational activities** for residents to participate in
- Assisting residents in **job preparations**
- Connecting residents with local **mental health resources**
- Provide **community support** through our Teens Supporting Teens Program



# School Day Program Schedule vs. Non-School Day Program Schedule

- Part of our mission is to provide structure for the youth we serve. We have created School Day and Non-School Day schedules. These schedules enforce the structure that is needed to ensure attendance and performance in school, ample opportunities for residents to learn life skills, time to bond with other residents through recreational activities and groups, and an adequate sleep schedule to ensure cognitive development.

# Our Vision, Our Mission, and Our Model

- It all started with a **vision** to serve North Central Wisconsin by providing unaccompanied runaway and homeless teenagers a safe temporary home, while connecting them with services they need.
- Our **mission** is to serve the community, by being a bridge between both runaway and homeless youth to existing services designed to help at risk teenagers. We aim to keep teenagers off the street to decrease the risk for trafficking or drug addiction as well as to offer the services they need to succeed
- Our **model** is to provide a safe, welcoming transitional home for up to eight teens at any given time, who have encountered homelessness for one or more reasons. This home will serve as a safe haven for up 30 days while our outreach staff work to secure a long-term safe living environment for the teenagers.





# Virtual Tour of the KATS Facility













# KATS Ribbon Cutting With Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce - June 15, 2021



# Volunteers and Donations at KATS



- Volunteers are always welcome at KATS and contribute to the efficiency of our facility
  - Volunteers help with:
    - Lawn-Care
    - Maintenance
    - Daily interaction with residents
    - Educating the public about our mission
- Middle Grounds Coffee Youth Volunteers
- Donations are a huge support for KATS:
  - Food, furniture, school supplies, toiletries, appliances, books, movies, gaming systems, recreational equipment, clothing, etc.
  - Monetary Donations



# Our Experiences

- What we've seen:
  - We've served youth who were waiting foster care placement
  - Youth who were victims of human trafficking and influenced into substance abuse/trafficking by their cultural norms
  - Placement of youth by parent/guardian due to family conflicts and unstable home situations
  - We have seen youth who would have ran away or been homeless if our shelter was unavailable due to family conflicts and unstable home situations
- Biggest challenges:
  - Family support
  - Inability for the youth we serve to trust adults
  - Behavioral challenges
  - Misconception of what shelter care really is
- Results:
  - Building trusting relationships and long term relationships
  - Open and honest discussions between staff and residents
  - Learning how to cope with behaviors in healthy ways
  - Learning how to positively manage conflict resolution
  - Youth looking forward to a better life and planning for the future
  - Staff continues to check-in on youth after leaving the KATS facility



# KATS Opened March 15, 2021: Youth Served

- **27 Total Youth Served**
- 25 of these youth residing in Marathon County
- 2 of these youth being from outside of Marathon County
- Average days of stay: 16 Days
- Of those that Discharged:
  - Residential Facility: 3
  - Home: 13
  - Foster Care: 1
  - Apartment/On Their Own: 4
  - Family Outside The Home: 1



# Who Has Referred Youth to KATS?

- Marathon County Social Services
- Wausau Police Department
- Wausau West High School Counselors
- D.C. Everest High School
- D.C. Everest Middle School
- North Central Health Care Youth Crisis, Hospital, and Behavioral Health Services
- Peaceful Solutions Counseling
- Mosinee School District
- Wausau East High School
- John Muir Middle School
- Family Members
- Other Counties Social Services



# Keep Area Teens Safe Yearly Operating Costs

- \$550,000 per year
  - Staffing
  - Benefits
  - Utilities Costs
  - Property Taxes
  - Insurance
  - Maintenance
  - Groceries
  - Supplies
  - Marketing Supplies
  - Recreational Activities/Programming
  - Revenue





# Letters of Support

“We feel that what you are doing is so important and will truly help these kids build a brighter future! Thank you for all you do!” - The Marathon County Health Department

“Adding resources to Marathon County and the surrounding vicinities for homeless teens will enhance the community effort to counter homelessness. We support Keep Area Teens Safe in their endeavor to open a safe haven for youth at-risk.” - Jeff Lindell - Director of Pupil Services, Wausau School District

“Our ongoing partnership with KATS will be important to insure we can get our homeless and at-risk teens back on a path to having an enriched and fulfilled life.” - CEO, North Central Health Care

“On behalf of the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, I am honored to write this letter of support and commitment for Keep Area Teens Safe.” - Rev S. Kemp Jones, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“On behalf of Catholic Charities, we are pleased to write this letter of support and commitment for the Keep Area Teens Safe. Our organization recognizes the need for housing for homeless and/or runaway teens at risk in the greater Wausau area.” - Tracy Rieger - Director, Catholic Charities

“I would support the need for housing in Marathon Co. for homeless unaccompanied youth. Thank you for your efforts to help our children.” -Mary Zimmerman - Homeless Liaison, Mosinee School District

“Our organization recognizes the need for housing for homeless and/or runaway teens at-risk in the greater Wausau area.” - Dr. Mary Jo Lechner - Assistant Superintendent, D.C. Everest School District

# Letters of Support Continued...

“This year, the number of our homeless students is particularly staggering. There is certainly a need for student's to have a safe, supportive, and structured place to sleep and eat during this time of need and KATS will offer that.” - Suzanne Huss - School Social Worker, Wausau School District

“The Women’s Community is well aware that runaway and homeless youth are often targeted by individuals who prey on the most vulnerable; too often those young people get trapped into a life of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Having a safe environment where young people can go when they aren't able to stay in their homes is critical in the prevention of human trafficking.” - Jane E Graham Jennings -Executive Director, The Women’s Community

“KATS is a well-qualified recipient to receive this type of grant support to address the housing needs in our area. I fully endorse support of this funding.” - Michelle Hazuka - Director, Community Corner Clubhouse

“Thank you for the truly difficult work that you and your Board have chosen to undertake on behalf of the homeless and runaway teens in our area.” - Brian Stezenski-Williams - Executive Director, Wausau Boys & Girls Club

“As part of our commitment to the success of our community and our youth, we support Keep Aea Teens Safe in their endeavor to open a safe haven for youth at risk.” - Diane Sennholz - Executive Director, North Central Community Action Program, Inc

# Future Support Of Our Mission

- Foundation Grants
- State and Local Grants
- City of Wausau Funding
- Marathon County Funding





# A huge thanks to our major donors!

- Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin
- Marathon County Medical Society
- Mary Jo Freeman and David Tange Foundation
- Raymond and Marie Goldbach Foundation, Inc.
- Jim Frings
- Wausau-Marathon County Fund
- BA & Esther Greenheck Foundation
- Aspirus Wausau Hospital
- Dudley Foundation
- Ronald & Janet Klimish Fund
- Connexus Cares
- The Macdonald Foundation
- Edward & Lois Drott Legacy Fund
- Crossroads Community Services, Inc.
- Incredible Bank Foundation
- Connexus Credit Union
- City of Wausau Community Block Grant
- Walter Alexander Foundation, Inc.
- Regal Rexnord





# Even small contributions make large impacts!

- Newton Electric
- Kreuger Floral
- Country Meats
- EO Johnson
- Intercity State Bank
- Menards
- Grebe's
- County Market
- Trig's
- St. Johns Lutheran Church
- Peace United Church
- YMCA
- Boys and Girls Club
- Middle Grounds
- Deluxe Inc
- Ruder Ware Law Firm



# Questions?



1115 Hillcrest Ave  
Wausau, WI 54401  
(715) 298-5053

[www.katswi.org](http://www.katswi.org)

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/keep-area-teens-safe>

# Community Outreach



*Teens Supporting Teens*

Join area teens (ages 12-18) for a non-judgemental and inclusive safe-space for support and fun!

**Tuesday - February 8th**

**Tuesday - February 22nd**

6-6:30pm Free Meal  
6:30-7:15pm Group Session  
7:15-8:00pm Games and Socializing

Wesley United Methodist Church  
Teen Room- Use Lower Level Entrance  
1101 Elm St. Wausau, WI 54401  
(This is not a religious event and open to teens of all backgrounds and beliefs)  
For questions, please call KATS at 715-298-5053!

This is a non-Wausau School District sponsored event.