



Communities Action

Family and Community Services Newsletter

PROGRAMS WITHIN THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Emergency Shelter Grant
- Family Homeless and Prevention Assistance Program
- Launch Pad
- The Phoenix- Transitional Housing
- HUD Rapid Rehousing
- Growth
- Long Term Homeless
- Housing Supports
- Housing Stability Services
- MNsure
- Homeless to Housed
- HRA Cares
- Enhance Alexandria
- Home Care and Repair
- Ready Ride
- Prime West Ready Ride
- PLUS Kids
- Hope Haven
- Matter of Balance

Here's what is NEW in the FCS Department at WCMCA!

2023 Day at the Hill

2023 Day at the Capital with Associations of Family and Conciliation Courts-Minnesota Chapter provided us with the opportunity to meet with Representatives on improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict. We talked about supporting additional funding for Guardian ad Litem and judicial programs overall, our commitment to empowering the ability to make child-centered decisions given the totality of any given circumstance as we do not believe a 50/50 presumptions would effectively and equitable improve the lives of children and families. Lastly, we discussed our support on an updated definition of domestic abuse.

Pictured left to right: Mari Stockford, Emilyn Haugen, Senator Jordan Rasmusson and Heather Molesworth



Upcoming Events

Father's Resource Program Free Law Clinic
 May 24, 2023 4:30pm-8:30pm
 TELECONFERENCE — Reservations Required
 (320) 760-3897

May is Community Action Month. Watch our social media pages for activities our staff will be doing throughout the month.

FHPAP Fast Track Funding

For several years, WCMCA has been operating Family Homeless and Prevention Assistance (FHPAP) funding. This funding assists households who are at imminent risk of homelessness and those who are homelessness with rental assistance to allow them to remain housed or to secure permanent housing. With increased needs and not enough funding, we are currently able to assist about 20% of households with this specific funding and are placing referrals to other internal funding sources along with community partners to serve those with housing insecurities.

With new funding passing through legislation, WCMCA was happy to accept an additional \$200,000 in FHPAP Fast Track Funds to add to our current funding to be spent out by September 30, 2023.





HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

Alexandria Location: 1910 Aga Drive, Suite 206, Alexandria, MN Website: WCMCA.ORG



WCMCA Annual Board Meeting



WCMCA's Annual Board meeting took place on Tuesday April 25th at the Legion in Wheaton, MN. Awards were given to Ready Ride volunteer drivers and Tom Sinning was awarded as our Volunteer of the Year Award.



Wake Up Alexandria

WCMCA hosted Wake Up Alexandria on Friday April 7th at our Alexandria office. It was a great opportunity to show our community our office and share about all the great work our agency does.



How to Human

Heather and Amber along with many other WCMCA staff attended Carlos Whittaker's 'How to Human' event at the Alexandria Area High School. Carlos is an author, speaker, and social-media personality who speaks on what it truly means to be truly human in a world where people feel increasingly disconnected from each other. Carlos shared three ways to share life beyond what distracts, divides, and disconnects us.





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Denim Day

Enhance Alexandria

Pictured below are Missy Becker-Cook, WCMCA's CEO, and Heather Molesworth, our Director of Family and Community Services and Operations, receiving \$75,000 from the city of Alexandria. These funds were received following a RFP submitted to the city for round one of the Enhanced Alexandria funds. These funds will be used for rental assistance, hotel vouchers, and a third Launch Pad unit.



Denim Day is a campaign on a Wednesday in April in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The campaign began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped the person who raped her remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Peace Over Violence developed the Denim Day campaign in response to this case and the activism surrounding it. Since then, what started as a local campaign to bring awareness to victim blaming and destructive myths that surround sexual violence has grown into a movement. As the longest running sexual violence prevention and education campaign in history, Denim Day asks community members, elected officials, businesses and students to make a social statement with their fashion statement by wearing jeans on this day as a visible means of protest against the misconceptions that surround sexual violence.



Participate! Advocate! Collaborate!

More Than Shelter Advisory Committee

The More Than Shelter Advisory Committee provides support and advice to West Central Minnesota Communities Action Homeless Prevention and Response Programs. The purpose is to achieve housing stability in our communities.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday May 24th 1:00-2:30pm in our Alexandria Conference Room or via Zoom

Youth Advisory Board

The Youth Advisory Board gives youth ages 17-24 who have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity a voice to advocate for solutions so that no young person in America has to experience even one day of homelessness.

NEXT MEETING: Monday June 19th from 5:00-7:00pm in our Alexandria Conference Room

Consumer Advisory Board

The Consumer Advisory Board gives those with lived homeless experience people a chance to use their life experiences and values to help develop solutions to prevent and end homelessness and provide ideas for improving services.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday May 10th from 2:30-3:30pm in our Alexandria Conference Room