

https://www.beloitdailynews.com/uncategorized/hendricks-family-foundation-awards-grant-to-bdvsc/article_05a23cfe-24ef-55d4-8f68-4330be995b5a.html

Hendricks Family Foundation awards grant to BDVSC

Ryan Silvola
Dec 11, 2017

BELOIT - The Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center (BDVSC) is expanding its ability to help make clients financially stable thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Hendricks Family Foundation.

"The effects of domestic violence are not limited to the family, but cast dark and disruptive shadows across the entire community," said Program Director Kelsey Hood-Christenson. "We are deeply appreciative of the Hendricks Family Foundation's interest in helping us improve the quality of life of some of the most vulnerable members of the Greater Beloit area."

Hood-Christenson said the funds are going toward financial planning and education services with the overall goal of financial stability.

Case managers at the center have assisted clients with short-term goals such as housing, since they have historically been focused on addressing more-immediate needs. Now staff members will be able to assist with long-term goals such as buying a home, growing savings and saving for a college fund.



"We often times see a difficult credit history that's hindering survivors," Hood-Christenson said.

This could be due to perpetrators taking credit cards and paying bills in the victim's name, for example.

Hood-Christenson said the BDVSC will work with another branch of Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois Inc., Life Financial Solutions, to integrate financial stability goals into the BDVSC's program.

"The grant will help ensure that clients have access to emergency shelter and are provided with the support and coaching conducive to self-sufficiency and freedom from subsequent abuse," Hood-Christenson said.

She said the need for emergency shelter also is increasing, even with the BDVSC increasing the number of rooms it has from eight to 11 rooms this year.

"We've expanded our shelter, but we're seeing more of a demand," Hood-Christenson said. "We continue to try to meet the need, but unfortunately we have not been able to meet that need yet."

The center does not charge participants any fees and relies on a variety of funding sources including State and County support, local contributions and foundations, and the support of the United Way Blackhawk Region.