



News Release

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Golf Tournament to Raise Funds for Children with Behavioral Health Needs

Over the last two-and-a-half years, \$1.8 billion dollars that have provided treatment services for the mentally ill have been snatched from state budgets—and the cuts continue. Industry professionals contend that as a result, prisons and emergency rooms will soon become popular stop-gaps for those with behavioral challenges.

For the Children Foundation, the main fund-raising arm of Pathways Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. and Royal Oaks Hospital, is trying to fill the gaps by raising money for children who suffer with behavioral health issues but have no way to pay for treatment. The proceeds from Its 11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament set for August 20, 2011 at Old Kinderhook Golf Course at the Lake of the Ozarks will support children's behavioral health treatment services.

"There are a lot of children who fall through the gaps because they don't qualify for Medicaid, don't have health insurance and their families can't afford to pay for their treatment," said Judy Cavender, the non-profit's executive director.

Cavender said the organization's philosophy, "for the children-for the future," paints a clear picture: if children don't receive the treatment they need, somewhere along the line communities will pay the price later. "If we could get more of these services to children at the beginning of the problem, their futures would be much brighter," she said.

Funds raised from the Golf Tournament will help to provide more services, specialty programs, equipment and training for parents, schools and community organizations. This includes:

- Adolescent treatment services
- Individual, group and family therapy
- Group education
- Case management services

Cavender also pointed out a 7.3 percent increase in the need for adolescent services from 2009 to 2010. "There is a clear need for funding support over and above what the state and federal government provides," she said.

In 2009, Pathways' suicide prevention services reached 1,680 individuals. However in 2010, this number escalated to 7,785, with educational services provided to students, schools and communities about suicide and how to work proactively to reduce suicide rates. Even with the increased need, funding for these programs continue to get to cut as well.

To this end, fund-raising goals have increased. Last year, the Golf Tournament raised \$60,000. This year, *For the Children's* fund-raising goal has increased to \$100,000 which is on par with the increased need for services. The event includes:

- Four person golf scramble
- 8:30 a.m. shot-gun start
- Silent auction
- Two Hole-in-one chances to win a car
- Longest drive competition
- Closest to the pin 1st and 2nd shot

All participants will receive a commemorative golf polo shirt, light breakfast, post-tournament lunch along with door and flight prizes. The cost for an individual is \$200 or \$800 for a team. To learn more about sponsor levels, or to register for the event, visit www.forthethechildren-forthefuture.org.

-For the Children Foundation-

About Us

For the Children Foundation is the main fund-raising arm of Midwest Behavioral Healthcare Management, Inc., the parent company of Pathways Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., and Royal Oaks Hospital, located in Windsor, MO. Together, the non-profit community behavioral healthcare center with 32 offices throughout Missouri and the 41-bed behavioral health hospital, provide a full continuum of behavioral health services for children, adolescents and adults. Services include comprehensive psychiatric treatment, addiction recovery, and crisis & prevention services.