

Press Kit Story Ideas

Community Care Resources, Inc.

Topic 1: Community Care Resources Brings Powerful Healing Through Therapeutic Foster Care

Community Care Resources, Inc. specializes in comprehensive treatment foster care, serving children and adolescents aged birth to 18, who display a wide range of emotional and behavioral disorders. In addition to the stable, nurturing home that every child deserves, children in the therapeutic foster care system require special skills, attention and dedication. These children present special needs and require extraordinary foster families willing to dedicate time, energy and compassion as they struggle to cope with life's challenges related to various cognitive, emotional and behavioral disorders. **SME:** *Brian Sullivan*, MS, LPC, Referral Coordinator; *Renee Sutkay*, MSSW, Clinical Supervisor; *Mary Simon*, MSSW, LCSW, Programs Manager; *Paulette Wijas*, MSSW, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor.

Topic 2: Children of Substance Abusers Find Compassion and Healing in Foster Care

Three out of four child welfare professionals report that children of addicted parents are more likely to enter foster care, and 73% say that children of alcoholics stay in foster care longer than children without addicted parents, according to the National Association of Children of Alcoholics. Alcoholism and drug addiction can have serious consequences for children who live in homes with substance-abusing parents. Using a therapeutic foster care model, *Community Care Resources, Inc.* provides comprehensive treatment and support for this vulnerable population. The purpose of the treatment is to provide a stable and normalizing family environment as a basis to receive appropriate mental health, medical and educational services to become more adaptive and emotionally healthy. **SME:** *Paulette Wijas*, MSSW, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor; *Mary Simon*, MSSW, LCSW, Programs Manager.

Topic 3: Community Care Resources Creates Comprehensive Partnerships with Foster Parents

It's no secret that foster parenting can be difficult. According to the Foster Care & Adoption Resource Center, foster care agencies can lose between 30-50% of foster homes each year, and estimates that 40% of new foster parents quit within their first year of licensing. *Community Care Resources, Inc. (CCR)* maintains the position that there must be more effort placed on retaining existing foster parents by providing the much needed tools and support to cope with challenges, stress and frustrations associated with foster parenting. In doing such, foster parents are armed with skills essential in promoting a brighter future for a child in need. Once meeting the initial foster parent licensing requirements, *CCR* devotes extraordinary time and resources to developing partnerships with foster families, providing ongoing support and education through exclusive training sessions offered throughout the year. Foster parenting is a journey which requires strength, compassion and devotion, and is further enhanced through extensive agency support. **SME:** *Renee Sutkay*, MSSW, Clinical Supervisor; *Brian Sullivan*, MS, LPC, Referral Coordinator; *Paulette Wijas*, MSSW, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor; *Mary Simon*, MSSW, LCSW, Programs Manager.

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Topic 4: Healing the Wounds of Traumatized Youth in Foster Care

Community Care Resources, Inc. (CCR) is an innovative, progressive agency that is committed to healing children through evidence-based treatment programs. In 2009 CCR implemented an agency-wide trauma informed practice, Tra.....TF-CBT with all youth in care. Staff members were intensively trained in a one-year learning collaborative with a national expert in trauma-focused treatment, Jennifer Wilgocki. Every youth who is placed in a CCR home receives a trauma informed assessment within the first 30 days of their placement. Those youth that qualify for TF-CBT are then referred for this specialized treatment. (Case Study available) **SME:** *Paulette Wijas, MSSW, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor; Donna Rifken, Ph.D., Child Clinical Psychologist; Mary Simon, MSSW, LCSW, Programs Manager; Renee Sutkay, MSSW, Clinical Supervisor.*

Topic 5: Creating a Family for Forgotten Teens

Nearly half of the young people in foster care are older than age 10. For many years, the number of young people aging out of foster care has increased. Approximately 30,000 young people exit foster care without the appropriate family connections, resources, mentorship, employment, skills or options they need to live independently. Teens can be the most challenging to place into foster care, often bringing with them psychological damage from physical or emotional abuse, neglect, lack of discipline, depression or substance abuse. The need for a safe, compassionate family is overwhelming. *Community Care Resources, Inc.* takes a unique approach which focuses on treatment, healing and stability. **SME:** *Brian Sullivan, MS, LPC, Referral Coordinator; Paulette Wijas, MSSW, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor; Renee Sutkay, MSSW, Clinical Supervisor; Mary Simon, MSSW, LCSW, Programs Manager.*

Topic 6: From Foster Care to Adoption: Finding a Permanent Home for Children in Need

(November is National Adoption Month)

Every year, approximately 30,000 young people leave the foster care system without permanent families – most at age 18. They need and deserve caring families who will support and nurture them. Permanent adoption can be a deeply rewarding way to form or expand a family, at the same time providing a sense of security and belonging for a child or young adult. According to U.S Department of Health and Human Services, 54 percent of children who were adopted in 2009 were adopted by their foster parents. *Community Care Resources, Inc.* provides extensive information and resources when adoption becomes a consideration for foster families. **SME:** *Renee Sutkay, MSSW, Clinical Supervisor; Mary Simon, MSSW, LCSW, Programs Manager.*

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Topic 7: Sexual Offender Treatment Program Rehabilitates Juveniles in Foster Care

S.T.O.P. (Sexual abuse Treatment and Offender Program) provides individualized outpatient treatment for youth who struggle with sexual issues, emphasizing a team approach in addressing each youth's individual treatment goals. The program is supervised by Mary Simon, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and owner of *Community Care Resources, Inc.* With 20 years of experience, Mary provides assessment and treatment of victims and offenders. S.T.O.P. features individual, group and family therapy, as well as sibling reparative and family reunification focused therapy. Psychosexual assessments conducted on an outpatient basis provide a comprehensive assessment of youth's risk for sexual offending. The assessment details a youth's perception of the offense, sexual attitudes and development, potential risk factors for committing future offenses and recommendations for placements, treatment, and registration on the juvenile sex offender registry. **SME:** *Mary Simon, MSSW, LCSW, Programs Manager; Janette Gunn, MSSW, LCSW, S.T.O.P Therapist.*

Topic 8: Paying It Forward Through Foster Care

When asked why they want to become foster parents, many will say that the reason they are compelled to help a child in need stems from a deep yearning to give back, to help others just as they have been helped at one time or another. Perhaps fill a void for a child – and for themselves. Adults willing to provide a safe, stable environment for foster children are vital crusaders in a mission to pay it forward, and are ultimately helping to make our communities better places to live, work and play. In the state of Wisconsin, *Community Care Resources, Inc.* has approximately 200 youth placed in 87 licensed foster care homes. All provide food, shelter, compassion, structure and hope for children in an effort to significantly improve a child's future. In exchange, foster parents receive extensive support, education and the gratification of knowing that they have saved a child's life by paying it forward. **SME:** *Brian Sullivan, MS, LPC, Referral Coordinator; Paulette Wijas, MSSW, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor; Mary Simon, MSSW, LCSW, Programs Manager; Renee Sutkay, MSSW, Clinical Supervisor.*

Topic 9: Distinctive Approach to Foster Care Parenting Restores Hope for Foster Youth

Many children in the foster system have experienced hurt, loss and grief resulting in various emotional, behavioral or cognitive disorders that can prohibit healthy development. As such, it's no longer enough for foster parents to simply do their best and hope that a child will grow up to be a well-adjusted adult. *Community Care Resources, Inc. (CCR)* implements a distinctive approach by teaching professional parenting skills and performing evidence-based interventions in order to better measure a child's improvement and progress. Using state-of-the-art treatment, intervention and tracking tools, CCR foster parents are highly-skilled professionals armed with skills and resources imperative for healthy development. **SME:** *Donna Rifken, Ph.D., Child Clinical Psychologist; Paulette Wijas, MSSW, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor; Mary Simon, MSSW, LCSW, Programs Manager.*