



J. J. Keller Matching Grant Opportunity

The J. J. Keller Foundation recently offered LEAVEN a \$25,000 challenge grant for the Mental Health Fund, just months after presenting a \$50,000 check at the annual meeting. The Kellers have a decade-long history of generous support of LEAVEN and have long advocated for mental health issues. The LEAVEN Mental Health fund provides emergency financial assistance for individuals and families affected by mental illness and is a perfect fit for the Keller match.

LEAVEN needs help from its many generous donors to meet this challenge grant. The J. J. Keller Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar all gifts raised up to \$25,000. Please send your gift **before November 1, 2010** in the enclosed envelope and check the box that indicates Keller match.

Mental illness is a major obstacle to having a supportive circle around you. It affects family, friends and co-workers.

- An estimated 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older (about one in four adults) suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year.*
- Mental disorders are the leading cause of disability in the U.S.*
- Mental illness is one of the root causes of poverty.
- The stigma that continues to surround mental illness is a major barrier to people seeking help.

*National Institute of Mental Health

Below is an example of how LEAVEN helps people with mental health issues.

Harold is a Vietnam Veteran. He and his wife have four children at home. Harold lived with bi-polar and anxiety disorders for years. Through medication and treatment he has been able to manage his illness, allowing him to provide for his family through full-time employment. In June, he attended an event to pay tribute to Wisconsin's Vietnam Veterans. Ironically, the events of the day brought back latent memories and he suffered a breakdown. He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and is currently hospitalized. Upon release, he will enter a "step-down" unit, where he may stay for 3 months or more. He is not eligible for short-term disability through his employer so the only household income is his Veterans' benefits. LEAVEN made a mortgage payment for his family to ensure that they don't lose their home.

Donations to the LEAVEN Mental Health Fund help the many families battling mental health issues. We thank you for considering a donation to the Mental Health Fund match!



LEAVEN accepts a check from J. J. Keller Foundation at its annual meeting in February. They received the 2010 Father Robert A. Udulutsch Award for their outstanding support of LEAVEN.

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Endowment/Legacy

By Jennifer Wanke, Executive Director

If you have been at LEAVEN recently you will agree that it is one of the busiest places in town. There are times when the waiting room overflows with people seeking help. During the first seven months of 2010 we had 3,983 applicants requesting assistance.

Our fundraising efforts have been very successful so far this year and we are cautiously optimistic that we will achieve our goals by year end. We are so very grateful for all the financial and other support from you and others in the community.

Many people support LEAVEN because it is a role model for charities in the Fox Cities. Most people understand that LEAVEN provides money for basic emergency assistance but what they don't know is just how efficiently we accomplish that goal. By utilizing volunteers, securing in-kind donations and scrutinizing expenses, administrative costs are kept at a bare minimum.

In addition to the annual Hardship to Hope fundraising campaign, you can show your support for LEAVEN by becoming a member of the LEAVEN Legacy Society. Membership into the Legacy Society is offered to LEAVEN donors who commit \$1,000 or

more to support the endowment through one of the following options:

- One time cash contribution or stock transfer
- Bequests
- Beneficiary designation
- Life insurance
- Remainder interest
- Lead trust
- Partial interest property (The donor is not required to give every year to maintain their status as a member.)

“We appreciate LEAVEN’s critical mission in our community and have enormous respect for the organization’s leadership...”

Speaking from personal experience, it has been a wonderful opportunity for my husband and me. In addition to the beneficial tax deduction, we are now members of an extraordinary group of donors investing in the future of LEAVEN. We have a fabulous time meeting with other society members at a special event held annually.

Legacy Society member Sue Detienne adds, “Because we appreciate LEAVEN’s critical mission in our community and have enormous respect for the organization’s leadership and very efficient and prudent use of donor dollars, we want to help ensure LEAVEN’s long-

term future by contributing to its endowment.”

Margaret Walsh, also a Legacy Society member stated, “The endowment plays a crucial role in the overall success of LEAVEN. It has long been a goal of LEAVEN to increase the amount of money invested through the endowments so that after distributions are made, 100% of all the money donated could be used for client assistance.”

We are well on our way toward achieving our goal for the LEAVEN Administrative Endowment to fund 100% of the agency’s administrative costs and to partially support client assistance. You can help make that dream a reality by joining the LEAVEN Legacy Society.

Dr. Dave and Tia Duppler joined over 10 years ago. Dave commented, “We feel strongly about the work LEAVEN does in a difficult situation and really wanted to support their work. LEAVEN staff and volunteers do a wonderful job.”

On September 9, Dr. John and Sally Mielke will host the annual Legacy Society Evening of Appreciation at their lovely home.

For more information please contact Kim O’Brien or Sue Sullivan at (920) 738-9635.

Collaboration by Design

Long before collaboration became a buzz word in our community, it was already an integral component of LEAVEN. From day one, LEAVEN embraced a philosophy defining collaboration as the best approach to answer real needs. LEAVEN recognized the interconnectedness of our society and how vital it is to find ways to target limited resources. With this in mind LEAVEN established four goals:

- To provide emergency goods and services on a short-term basis to needy people whose needs cannot be met elsewhere.
- To provide a central agency for referral and/or distribution of goods and services that would

help eliminate duplication of efforts while reducing fraudulent use of services through a comprehensive information file on agencies, referrals, services and users.

- To provide a flow of information among helping agencies as to the ever changing services and eligibility for those in need and make appropriate referral to those services.
- To analyze the use of services and policies to advocate for the needy.

Early on, LEAVEN established a network that included churches, businesses, government agencies, charities, service groups and others to help address the emergency needs of

the less fortunate. By using well trained volunteers in key positions and engaging the community to take action, LEAVEN built a lean, efficient network with each collaborator contributing resources. This resulted in a seamless transition from intake to outcome.

Nearly 25 years later, LEAVEN continues to play an integral role in community collaboration - connecting people to resources and resources to people. We recognize the need to maximize the use of limited community resources so we continue seeking new ways to work with others to address poverty-related issues.

From the Executive Director

By Jennifer Wanke

Through my role at LEAVEN I have the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people in our community. I am repeatedly impressed by their generosity and willingness to help the less fortunate. In recent articles in the Post-Crescent, our community was rated one of the safest and nicest places to live. No surprise to me, that report confirmed what I already knew, it's an awesome community!

The list of reasons the Fox Cities is so wonderful is endless, but in the interest of space, I will condense the list down to one word that says it all, "people!"

All sectors work very hard to make this a successful community and there is collaboration every step of the way. Businesses, faith communities, government, charities, organizations, foundations, and individuals each contribute to that success proving (once again) that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

The collaboration that was seen at the recent U.S. Oil Golf Open and Convoy of Hope events were prime examples of this awesome community's work. For more information on how these events made history, visit LEAVEN's website.

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Project Promise Poverty Coalition

Under the leadership of LEAVEN's Executive Director, Jennifer Wanke along with Jon Stellmacher (recently retired from Thrivent), Project Promise Poverty Coalition has continued to flourish in our community.

What began as a poverty plunge to create awareness has become a leading collaborator in the community. With a cast of experienced community leaders serving on the Executive Steering Committee, others have become engaged in the mission by joining one of the committees. One opportunity to get involved is through participation in an upcoming event called Faith to Face Poverty Week which will take place October 3-10. During that week all the faith communities throughout the Fox Valley are encouraged to focus on poverty. This can be accomplished by sharing the message during your worship service, attending a poverty simulation, or participating in special events that shed light on the reality of poverty in our community.

Upcoming membership meeting dates are Wednesday, September 8 and Wednesday, December 8 at Zion Lutheran Church. Meetings are open to the public. Project Promise website: www.projectpromisefoxcities.org.

Faith to Face Poverty Week Poverty Simulation

Hosted by Project Promise and facilitated by CAP Services

The poverty simulation experience is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family. In the simulation, 86 participants assume the roles of up to 26 different families facing poverty. The task of the "families" is to provide for their basic necessities and shelter.

Dates and times:

- October 4, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Appleton Public Library or
- October 8, 9:00 a.m. – noon, Family Resource Center

Contact Colleen Holz, 920-968-6365 ext. 6210 or email: cholz@capmail.org to reserve your spot.

Save the Date

The King's Daughters & Sons Silver Cross Circle will hold its annual luncheon to benefit LEAVEN's Needy Children's Fund on Thursday, March 3, 2011.

If you would like to receive an invitation to the event, send an email to: kimobrien@new.rr.com.

The Volunteer Center's Human Race will be held Saturday May 14, 2011. LEAVEN's *Emergency Room* racing team will be participating.

Faith Community and LEAVEN

Leaders of the faith community are invited to join us to learn more about what LEAVEN is currently doing to help the less fortunate in our community and how to connect needy families to community resources. Learn more about new strategies to increase the self-sufficiency of needy families.

October 11: 9-10 a.m., or 6-7 p.m.
October 12: 9-10 a.m., or 3-4 p.m.
October 13: 9-10 a.m., or 3-4 p.m.
November 9: 9-10 a.m., or 3-4 p.m.

To sign up contact Jennifer Wanke at (920) 738-9635 or leaven@new.rr.com.

Clients in Need

Cindy was referred to LEAVEN by the Cancer Treatment Center. She was recently diagnosed with stage two ovarian cancer and has had surgery and is currently undergoing chemotherapy.

A social worker at the hospital helped her enroll in BadgerCare health insurance, which is critical due to the high cost of her treatment. Her long-term disability cannot cover the monthly BadgerCare premium payments along with all of her other household expenses. LEAVEN assisted with rent money so she could continue to pay her health insurance premiums.

Jan has had two major health issues this year. She was diagnosed with a joint disorder, which limited her ability to work. She managed to keep abreast with her finances, in spite of the reduction in income. Then she was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor on her kidney and underwent surgery. She does not receive short-term disability and had exhausted her Family Medical Leave coverage.

Without any income she had no means to pay rent. LEAVEN helped her with rent money so she could stay in the apartment that she had lived in for five years.

Did you know...

LEAVEN offers *In Honor Of* cards for birthdays, hostess gifts, anniversaries and holidays.

This Christmas would be a great time to make a donation to LEAVEN in honor of a family member or friend. LEAVEN will send a beautiful seasonal card to the honoree.

In Memory Of cards are also Available. LEAVEN sends a special card to the family in memory of their loved one.

Simply make a donation to LEAVEN and enclose a note referencing the occasion. Include the name and address of the person you would like to receive the card.

Strategic Plan on Track

The five year strategic plan that was developed and approved at the end of 2009 is being implemented. The primary mission is to provide emergency assistance (financial and referral) to those that have need. The secondary mission is to act as a “gateway” to efforts to reduce or eliminate people’s dependency on emergency financial assistance. Some goals have already been accomplished and others are ahead of schedule. Jeff Williams, Senior Quality Consultant at Kimberly Clark, has been involved since the onset of the planning sessions and continues to volunteer his time and share his expertise as a leader in this project. He recently reported to the board that an analysis has been done of client

records dating back to 2002 and the results indicated that LEAVEN is fulfilling its mission of serving as a “Financial Emergency Room.” Jeff reported that 73% of the clients came to LEAVEN only one or two times over that time period.

The High Risk Prevention Program collaboration with the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Cities is proving to be very successful. As we move forward with our plan, additional methods of measurement are being implemented and classifications will be assigned based on causes of dependency. In addition, a system has been created to ensure clients are following through on referrals.

The secondary mission is to act as a “gateway” to efforts to reduce or eliminate people’s dependency on emergency financial assistance.

Celebrate Volunteers!

The Fox Community Credit Union (FCCU) donated \$3,000 to sponsor LEAVEN's 2010 Volunteer Dinner scheduled for Thursday, September 16.

The annual Volunteer Dinner recognizes the volunteers that allow LEAVEN to fulfill its mission. The event is hosted by the LEAVEN board of directors. As a sponsor of the event, FCCU representatives will be invited as special guests. At the evening's activities the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented to one of the

250 dedicated volunteers. During the first seven months of 2010 LEAVEN volunteer hours totaled 10,602.45, equivalent to \$197,205.57 in volunteer services. (Calculated at \$18.60 per hour).

LEAVEN's Volunteer and Community Coordinator Julie Coenen stated "The volunteers are the lifeblood of LEAVEN and they work so hard all year. The dinner is a special way to honor their dedication. We are so pleased that FCCU recognizes them as well."

Finding us on the web

To help LEAVEN spread the word about its great work, we have joined the ranks of social media. LEAVEN now has its own facebook page which provides information regarding its history and mission, as well as notices regarding local events in which LEAVEN participates. (To receive a direct link to the facebook page email kimobrien@new.rr.com.)

The website is continually updated with new information regarding LEAVEN events as well as our bi-monthly on-line newsletter titled *What's Happening at LEAVEN*. Visit us at: www.focol.org/leaven.

To receive notice when the newsletter is posted to the web, send your email address to kimobrien@new.rr.com.

Wish List

- Gift cards to grocery stores or discount stores such as Walmart/Sam's Club
- Hygiene items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, q-tips, deodorant
- Diapers: especially size 4, 5 and 6
- Laundry detergent
- HP ink cartridges #21 or #22

Campaign Launches in December

The Hardship to Hope Campaign has traditionally been the primary community fundraiser for LEAVEN.

The campaign letters will again be mailed in December and donors will have the option of donating to the Hardship to Hope Campaign, the endowment fund, or both.

The campaign kicks off our 2011 fundraising efforts. This year the emphasis will be on growing the

endowment. As always, donations at any time are appreciated to assist people in crisis.

In the first seven months of 2010 over \$482,541 was spent on emergency client assistance.

LEAVEN relies on the generous support of donors like you to serve the community's needy population.

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LEAVEN Works is
produced in-house.