



children's home + aid

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OCTOBER 12, 2011

For further information contact:  
Judith Loudin, Regional Development Manager  
Children's Home + Aid  
815-720-2106  
[jloudin@childrenshomeandaid.org](mailto:jloudin@childrenshomeandaid.org)

**“Gold Star Kids Workshops” is funded by a grant from the Dr. Louis and Violet Rubin Fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois**

“Children's Home + Aid has been awarded a grant of \$20,000 by the Dr. Louis and Violet Rubin Fund, of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois,” Judith Loudin said today.

According to Ms. Loudin, the grant will be used for staffing, transportation, training, supplies and therapeutic materials for the *Gold Star Kids Workshops*. The purpose of the workshop is to provide short term services to children who are experiencing social-emotional and behavioral challenges, but do not have a mental health diagnosis and/or do not use Medicaid insurance.

This program will consist of four twelve-week long workshops addressing four distinct social-emotional and behavioral issues including: anger management, impulse control issues, social skills development and emotional coping skills development. These smaller workshops will work with 5 -7 children at a time and will take for approximately 2 hours a week during or after school. Children in the Rockford area are at-risk for developing mental health problems because of their high rate of low birth weight, multigenerational poverty, family history of mental and addictive disorders, abuse and neglect or caregiver separation. School is often the environment where mental health problems among children are first identified making it vital that children have access to mental health resources at school. Repeated social-emotional and behavioral challenges, such as anger management failures, attention deficit issues, impulse control issues and limited social skills can lead to disciplinary action that removes the child from the classroom for trips to the administrator's office, suspension or expulsion.

~ Continued~

Our agency has provided mental health services to over 1200 children in area schools, and counseled their siblings and caregivers, over the last 26 years. The grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois will give us additional resources to reach the neediest of children with a mental health diagnosis who formerly were ineligible for these services and were causing havoc and disruption in their classrooms and at home.

Since 1883, Children's Home + Aid has been a compassionate advocate helping to shape public policy in child welfare, early childhood and juvenile justice. Children's Home + Aid's Northern Region office opened in Rockford in 1939 and serves a 10 county area. Children's Home + Aid is recognized for establishing best practices and achieving outstanding results through its programs and services that focus on child abuse prevention, healthy child development and strengthening families.

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is the area's largest provider of grants and scholarships. Its mission is to attract, grow, and preserve an endowment for the needs of the people of Northern Illinois.

###