



News Release

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COMMUNITY ADVOCATES RECEIVES \$100,000 FROM GREATER MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION TO EXPAND ACCESS TO ADDICTION TREATMENT

Milwaukee (April 30, 2009)—Community Advocates, Inc. has received a three-year, \$100,000 grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to help support the Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative (MATI), a multiyear project to expand access to high-quality treatment for people suffering from drug and alcohol addiction, according to Executive Director Joe Volk.

MATI is a collaboration of more than 80 local and state organizations—including treatment providers, advocates, law enforcement and public health agencies—to close the gap that separates those who need addiction treatment and those who can receive it.

In Milwaukee, this “treatment gap” has reached epidemic proportions: a recent study by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that in 2004, more than 82,000 Milwaukee County residents who needed addiction treatment were denied services due to lack of health insurance, inadequate insurance coverage or a lack of available services.

Nationally, nine out of every 10 people who need treatment do not receive it.

“Symptoms of drug and alcohol abuse are all too familiar in Milwaukee and Wisconsin: drug-related crime, a high percentage of drunken driving deaths and injuries, and inflated medical costs,” said Douglas M. Jansson, Executive Director of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. “We all suffer from this abuse, as well as the pronounced gap in our ability to provide sufficient treatment. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation supports the pioneering work of the Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative.”

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Greater Milwaukee Foundation / Add One

“I’m confident that the support of such a strong community leader as the Greater Milwaukee Foundation will further strengthen MATI’s ability to make the changes necessary to close the treatment gap,” said Volk. “From its inception MATI has been a high-level collaboration bringing together some of our most trusted community partners. We’re honored to have the support of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation for this partnership.”

In addition to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative is funded by Milwaukee’s Zilber Family Foundation and Helen Bader Foundation; and the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation in Baltimore.

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Established in 1976, **Community Advocates, Inc.** is the largest human needs advocacy agency in Wisconsin and one of the few remaining community-based organizations of any kind that welcomes walk-in clients five days a week. Community Advocates provides skilled and results-focused advocacy and services to low-income individuals and families, including health care, utilities and housing assistance; and disabilities and public policy advocacy.

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is a family of over 1,000 individual charitable funds, each created by donors to serve the charitable causes of their choice. Grants from these funds serve people throughout Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties and beyond. Started in 1915, the Foundation is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the world.