

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Sexual Assault Crisis Center Receives Two Grants Totaling \$11,250** *Money will be used to increase Internet outreach, support general programs*

APPLETON, Wis., November 1, 2005—The Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Fox Cities Inc. has been awarded two grants totaling \$11,250.

A grant of \$5,000 through the United Way Focused Funding program will be used for upgrading the Center's computer system and creating an interactive Web site that will support community outreach, volunteer recruiting, fund raising and direct contact with individual clients in a secure and confidential format.

The second grant of \$6,250 was received from the Nancy and Howard Farrand Family Fund within the Community Foundation and will be used to support general programs at the Center.

"Upgrading our Internet presence will increase our direct contact with victims who might otherwise not know about our services," said Kathleen Lhost, executive director of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center. "This is especially true for teens who turn first to the Internet when looking for information, as well as for those individuals too isolated to initiate contact in a more personal way.

"A dynamic Web site will help us reach out to those victims of sexual assault who are reluctant to report their attacks or actively seek help," Lhost added. "It affords those victims a nonthreatening anonymous way to learn about our services and how we can help."

The grant from the Howard Farrand Family Fund was awarded based on directions from the donors on the types of programs they would like to see funded.

"This grant was totally unexpected—a generous gift out of the blue," said Lhost, adding that the grant will be used to provide general support of all of the Center's programs as needed.

The Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Fox Cities Inc. is located in Appleton and was founded in 1978. The Center is dedicated to providing crisis intervention and advocacy services to survivors of sexual abuse, their families and others affected. The goal of the Center is to work toward ending sexual abuse and violence in our communities through prevention and education. Its services are confidential and free.