

Children's Wisconsin expands community health advocates to the Fox Valley

Children's Wisconsin is proud to partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley and Oshkosh to support two community health advocates who help wrap around kids and families and address their needs.

Thanks to a generous donation from Lynne Cumings Keller and institutional support from Children's Wisconsin, Boys & Girls Clubs and other community organizations can refer families with a child under age 18 to receive support from Children's community health advocates.

The community health advocates conduct a social needs assessment to determine social determinants of health, then address basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, transportation, employment, health insurance, physical and mental health, alcohol and drug rehabilitation services and more. The community health advocates connect families with resources and provide ongoing support for up to one year to help them reach their goals and work towards self-sufficiency.

A relative recently received guardianship of her two nieces. After a referral from the Menasha Boys & Girls Club, a Children's community health advocate was able to get them connected to the Oshkosh St. Vincent de Paul so they could obtain much needed clothing, bedding and household items for the girls. One of the girls was having some mental health concerns, so a Children's community health advocate provided several resources for psychiatric testing that would work with her insurance. In addition, the community health advocate was able to refer them to the Community Clothes Closet for new school clothes and shoes. The caregiver was very grateful for the information and support as they take on this new role for their nieces.

-Children's Wisconsin-Fox Valley