



Lee Carlson Center™
FOR MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Contact: Patty Halvorson,
Lee Carlson Center™ for Mental Health
& Well-Being
7954 University Ave. Fridley, MN 55432
Phone: (763) 230-7836 Fax: (763) 780-0784
phalvorson@leecarlsoncenter.org

Dean Prince can be reached for a quote at
dean@realbits.com or at 763-792-1125

Youth Intervention recognition given to local Publisher

(Fridley, MN) – Dean Prince, Publisher of Tidbits, was recently awarded the annual Friend of Youth Leadership Award for “Innovative Funding Leadership” from *The Youth Intervention Programs Assn (YIPA)*.

Prince was nominated by *Lee Carlson Center™ for Mental Health & Well-Being*, a local non-profit providing mental health services to youth and families in our community and a member/partner of YIPA.

According to Patty Halvorson, Marketing/Development Manager for Lee Carlson Center, “We couldn’t think of a more deserving person for this award. Dean has done everything from emceeding our fundraisers, to raising money for various campaigns to offering the center free ad space to promote our services. He has become one of our strongest advocates.”

“Lee Carlson Center has had a long-standing relationship with YIPA, says Kathy Samilo, LCC Executive Director. For over 30 years, YIPA has helped fund the Peer Support Groups we provide to more than 300 at-risk youth in elementary, middle and high schools in four school districts. This program works with youth who are beginning to engage in behaviors that are of concern to parents and teachers. Behaviors range from depression to truancy to cutting to experimenting with alcohol and other substances.”

Led by trained therapists from Lee Carlson Center, peer support group sessions help students develop healthier personal interactions and gain an improved sense of self-esteem. The groups are offered free of charge to families. Most of the students are referred by the principal, teachers or a counselor and many would never receive the help they so desperately need without the convenience of having these services offered at school.

The program also provides referrals to other community resources when the needs of the student are beyond what can be addressed onsite during the school day. LCC School-based facilitators also meet on a one to one basis as needed and work the students’ teachers to create a supportive classroom environment.

About Lee Carlson Center:

For over 30 years, Lee Carlson Center has been a beacon of hope for people coping with emotional and behavioral problems.

Lee Carlson, a Registered Nurse, founded the center in 1979 with a focus on helping at-risk youth through support groups in area schools. The school-based Peer Support Program remains a cornerstone of the center's services, providing counseling, advocacy, education and peer mediation referrals to schools in the Northern suburbs of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Throughout the years, the center has expanded to meet the changing needs of the community.

A 501 © 3 non-profit organization, Lee Carlson Center sees more than 4,000 individuals and families each year and is the only mental health center in the Northern suburbs that: has comprehensive mental health services for children, youth and families; provides psychological testing for all; has child and adolescent psychiatrists who see youth younger than 18; provides a family focused domestic abuse program and brings mental health and prevention programs into North Suburban School Districts.

The agency also provides a sexual assault program for women and operates Bridgeview, which is the only psychosocial drop-in center in Anoka County for adults 18 and up who have serious and persistent mental illnesses.

Visit www.leecalrsoncenter.org or find them on facebook to learn more.

About YIPA:

YIPA is the acronym for the Youth Intervention Programs Association.

For 33 years YIPA has been advocating for youth intervention. YIPA is a nonprofit organization that has been providing professional development services to youth intervention professionals, increasing community awareness about youth intervention, promoting best practices within the field of youth intervention services, and advocating on behalf of its membership since 1978.

Why Youth Intervention is so critical:

The field of youth intervention represents a variety of programs that give youth better decision making skills and help keep them from going down the wrong path in life. Services such as mentoring, counseling, conflict resolution, restorative justice, anger management, diversion, and education are all forms of youth intervention. Although the strategies may be diverse, they all share the ultimate goal of reaching kids when they are just showing signs of troublesome behaviors, keep them in school, living with a supportive family and out of the costly juvenile justice system.

Currently, over 100 YIPA member organizations from across the state of Minnesota serve over 50,000 at-risk youth per year. These agencies work with youth ages 6-18 precisely when they are beginning to engage in problematic behaviors (e.g. truancy, petty crimes, alcohol/drug use, etc.). Instead of simply being punished for their actions, youth benefit from youth intervention programs by receiving the help and resources they need to make positive life choices leading to a brighter future.

Learn more at YIPA.org or find them on facebook.

About the Friends of Youth Leadership Awards:

YIPA recognizes and honors superstars in the field of youth intervention. The Friends of Youth Leadership Award gives the membership an opportunity to nominate individuals who excel in their work and gives them the recognition they deserve. The Outstanding Achievement Award is YIPA's chance to honor those that go above and beyond for the Association.

The Innovative Funding Leadership Award is for those individuals, foundations, corporations, civic groups or other entities that have set an example for innovative funding to youth intervention programs in the state of Minnesota.

Past recipients of the Friends Of Youth Leadership Award, who are also advocates of Lee Carlson Center, include Fridley Mayor Scott Lund and former Spring Lake Park Mayor, Bob Nelson.