



NEWS RELEASE

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22 January 2015

Seasons Center Update on the Potential Expansion Project of Autumn's Center

Spencer, IA. – Seasons Center for Behavioral Health, an Avera Partner, is excited to announce that its plans for Autumn's Center, the first of its kind regional children's center, are growing to match an increased number of children who require Seasons' services. The Center was originally scheduled to open in 2015, and will be located in Spencer, Iowa. "Seasons Center is serving an increased number of children and families. This increased need caused us to look at possibly expanding Autumn's Center square footage prior to beginning the renovations to our current building," said Kim Scorza, Seasons Executive Director. "Seasons has spent considerable time studying trends, projections and regional needs in light of the first year of Medicaid expansion in Iowa," shared Jean Drey, Director of Program Development.

To meet these increased needs, Seasons Board of Directors and Advisory Board members discussed the funding needed for expansion and the possibility of acquiring another building near Autumn's Center. Board members unanimously voted to have Seasons' leadership apply for and pursue an \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). The Clay County Board of Supervisors will serve as the grant applicant with the help of Northwest Iowa Planning and Development. If awarded funding, Seasons will completely remodel both floors of Autumn's Center, expand a back portion of the building, acquire the additional property and building, connect the two buildings, as well as add green space for a healing garden and play area for children. The total project is estimated to cost \$2.4 million. At this time, \$881,956 has been raised through private donations, a \$360,000 loan from the USDA at zero percent interest has been secured through Spencer Municipal Utilities, and \$359,894 has been received from other grants and cash on hand. The remaining \$800,000 for the expanded project would be paid for by the Community Development Block Grant.

Should the expanded project not be fully funded, Seasons will proceed with its original plan and study the feasibility of a second phase to add space over the next two to three years. Steve Grell, Community Bank Chairman and Seasons' Advisory Board Chair, stated, "We wouldn't be able to apply for the CDBG funding if we began work on the project right now. The boards decided it was in the best interest of the agency to apply for funding and delay the initial interior demolition and remodeling of the building. We are hopeful that State officials see Autumn's Center as more than just a worthwhile project, but rather a project where children can heal from life's hurts so that they can become productive members of our region and State."

Seasons should be informed if they are the recipients of the CDBG grant by May 2015. Autumn's Center was named in memory and honor of Autumn Elgersma who died on October 31, 2013 due to injuries she sustained while in the care of her babysitter in Orange City, Iowa. Autumn's parents, Phil and Jen Elgersma are actively involved in all phases of the center including the application for CDBG funding.

C E N T E R F O R B E H A V I O R A L H E A L T H

For those interested in learning more about the services of "Autumn's Center" or to make a donation in honor and memory of Autumn or other children who have experienced abuse, please visit Seasons' website at www.seasonscenter.org or contact Kim Scorza, Executive Director at [712-240-2177](tel:712-240-2177). Those wishing to donate directly can mail their gifts to: Seasons Center for Behavioral Health, Attention: Kim Scorza, 210 East 11th Street, Spencer, Iowa 51301.

- 30 -

Founded in 1959, Seasons Center for Behavioral Health continues to be a leading, comprehensive behavioral health center in the northwest region of Iowa. Offering a broad range of behavioral health services, Seasons recognizes that investing in behavioral health is investing in a community's economic, education, health and human services systems. Seasons strives to empower individuals so they might become active, contributing members of their communities. For more information on Seasons' services, please visit www.seasonscenter.org or call 1-800-242-501.

Avera is a regional partnership of health professionals who share support services to provide excellent care at 300 locations in 100 communities in eastern South Dakota and surrounding states. Our ministry, our people and our superior value distinguish Avera. We carry on the health care legacy of the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters, delivering care in an environment guided by our values of compassion, hospitality and stewardship. Avera employs more than 13,500. Inpatient, outpatient and clinic visits totaled nearly 2.5 million in the last year, a number equal to more than twice the population of the Avera service area. For more information, please visit Avera.org.

