



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Seasons Center Receives \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant for Therapeutic Camp

SPENCER - Seasons Center for Behavioral Health has been awarded a \$600,000 community development block grant to proceed with plans to start a therapeutic camp to be located in O'Brien County. The agency is looking to acquire the property of Bob and Pam Maurer, touted as the "prettiest farm in Iowa" on 159-acres including a 30-acre man-made lake. Seasons Center made application for the community development block grant in January of 2016.

In 2015, Seasons Center was called to care for 5,190 individuals, including 2,123 children and 3,067 adults. When looking at the various needs of these individuals, Seasons' board, advisory board, leadership team and employees sought out additional ways to serve those entrusted to our care.

"We are very excited about this grant award," said Kim Scorza, Executive Director of Seasons Center. "It has been well over a year of work in developing all the programming needed for a therapeutic camp for children. If not for the northwest Iowa region surrounding us with words of encouragement and support, as well as the opportunity to apply for this award, this would not be possible."

Seasons Center would like to recognize the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Seasons Center Board of Directors, Seasons Center Advisory Board, the O'Brien County Board of Supervisors and the Phil and Jen Elgersma family for helping us reach this point.

"If not for all of these entities coming together this would not be possible," added Scorza.

"This is just one more way as a community we can care for hurting children," said Jennifer Elgersma, Seasons Center and Autumn's Center Agency Ambassador. "We are so ecstatic that this camp is coming to fruition here in northwest Iowa and we are blessed to be part of this."

Seasons Center will be spending the next several months continuing to meet with our internal camp planning committee with the goal of beginning to provide services to children and their families in the spring of 2017.

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Autumn's Center, the first of its kind regional children's center, will house rooms and offices designated to care for children's behavioral health, including areas for psychiatric services, outpatient therapy, psychological testing, behavioral health intervention services, substance abuse counseling, parent education, and care coordination services. The center will offer a child friendly and healing environment throughout the building.

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 1-800-242-5101.

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 values 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 www.averacare.org.