

City of Lawrence
Social Service Agency
Bi-annual Report
2012

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Casey Toomay, Budget Manager at ctoomay@lawrenceks.org. Reports on activities from January to June are due on July 15th. Reports on activities from July through December are due on February 15th.

Agency Name: The Willow Domestic Violence Center

Reporting period: **January - June** **July - December**
 (deadline July 15) (deadline February 15)

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

During this 6 month reporting period, The Willow provided both individual and group based direct services to children at the agency's safe shelter, and within the community. Included in these activities were recreational programs and art based activities that promoted increasing self-confidence/esteem, maintaining healthy communication within relationships, and identifying and instituting positive personal boundaries.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

Please see attachment #1

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

The Willow strongly believes in prevention work as it relates to domestic violence. The agency understands the traumatic effects of domestic violence on children –both when they experience the actual abuse, but also when they witness it. In addition to offering drug and alcohol prevention programs that educate youth on the harmful effects of these substances before they find themselves face to face with them, The Willow provides education and information to youth in regard to healthy relationships and boundaries. These youth will be better armed with accurate facts when making life decisions. The over-arching goal of course being that these youth will not be dependent on substances, nor affected by domestic violence in their own relationships – thus ending the cycle of violence within that family. All citizens can be affected by domestic violence in their community, and in turn, all citizens can also be positively affected when their fellow community members are partaking in relationships free of that violence.

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

The Willow, during this grant reporting period, changed the way it will assess outcomes and the way services are delivered in our Art Program. We believe these changes will make a marked impact in grant objective outcomes. Examples include:

- The Art Therapy Program Coordinator will institute an age-appropriate rubric system to more accurately capture children's perceptions of their own self-confidence levels, and their own levels of understanding with regard to the harmful effects of drugs, alcohol, and other substance abuse. The creation of this rubric system removes the need for objective assessments by program coordinators and ensures that advocates are meeting the unique needs of children based on their levels of development (physical, emotional/psychological).

- Internal agency documentation has been adjusted to ensure a 'pre' and 'post' assessments to demonstrate increases in children's non-violent communication, and their positive reactions to handling situation that typically solicited a response of anger.

While we are excited to see the immediate results of these changes, The Willow acknowledges that changes of this nature, though necessary for the improvement of the program, have caused some data collection barriers. These barriers are resolved and the city will see significant positive outcomes in February's report.

5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

Please see attachment #2