



McFarland Youth Center
5120 Farwell Street
McFarland, WI 53558
608-838-3839
www.mcfarlandyouthcenter.org

August 31st, 2011

RE: Potential loss of \$8,000 in Dane County funding

Dear Member of the McFarland School District Community,

As we enter this new school year, we have a lot to feel proud of at the McFarland Youth Center. In 2011 alone, we have engaged middle school youth in more than 1,700 hours of structured programming, including over 300 hours of community service. Undoubtedly, this would not have been possible without the continued support and generosity of community members like you.

It is with these kinds of successes in mind that we turn to you, a concerned member of the McFarland community, as the MYC prepares to face an unprecedented challenge: the potential for an \$8,000 reduction in our funding from Dane County Human Services (DCHS). Last week, we were informed by DCHS that the proposed 2012 Dane County Budget would **zero out all funding for Youth Resource Centers in Dane County**. For the MYC, this represents a cut of **17% of our annual operating budget**. If this drastic cut is realized, it would be very difficult for the McFarland Youth Center to continue to provide high quality services – the services that are so crucial to the development and well-being of our youth and so valued by the McFarland community.

Fortunately, over the next two weeks, there are still many ways for community members and Friends of the McFarland Youth Center to speak out on behalf of our youth before the budget is approved. Please review the list below for ways to become involved and, if at all possible, **make your commitment** to help us and the other Youth Resource Centers throughout Dane County.

- **Attend the Dane County Public Hearing** regarding the 2012 Dane County Budget on **Monday, September 12th at 6pm at the Alliant Energy Center**.
- **Write a letter to your local newspaper in support of County funding for the MYC**. Contact the McFarland Thistle at kosten@hometownnewsgroup.com and Kris Crary (letters to the editor) at the Wisconsin State Journal at kcrary@madison.com.
- **Post your support** on the Friends of McFarland Youth Center Facebook page, or create a video on the McFarland Youth Center YouTube channel.
- **Contact your County Representatives**. Let them know that the McFarland Community is opposed to this budget line and believes in the importance of youth programs in McFarland.
 - **Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive**, City County Building, Room 421
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. □ Madison, WI 53703 □
Phone: (608) 266-4114, Email: parisi@countyofdane.com
 - **Patrick Miles, Dane County Supervisor, District 34**
410 North Pass, McFarland, WI, 53558
Phone: (608) 838-6866, Email: miles@countyofdane.com

All of us at the MYC thank you for advocating for our youth and for the restoration of Dane County funding to the MYC. We know that despite the uncertainties and challenges of this time, our community can succeed through coming together on behalf of our young people. Please contact me at any time at 838-3839 or at Rachel_byrd-felker@mcfarland.k12.wi.us with any questions that may arise, and check our website at www.mcfarlandyouthcenter.org for regular updates as this situation develops over the coming weeks.

Our deepest thanks for all you do,

Sincerely,

Rachel Byrd-Felker, Managing Director, McFarland Youth Center





McFarland Youth Center
5120 Farwell Street
McFarland, WI 53558
608-838-3839
www.mcfarlandyouthcenter.org

September 2nd, 2011

RE: Potential loss of \$8,000 in Dane County funding

Dear McFarland School District Educators,

As we enter this new school year, we have a lot to feel proud of at the McFarland Youth Center. In 2011 alone, we have engaged middle school youth in more than 1,700 hours of structured programming, including over 300 hours of community service. Undoubtedly, this would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the caring educators in the McFarland School District community.

It is with these successes in mind that we turn to you, the concerned teachers and staff of the McFarland schools, as we prepare to face an unprecedented challenge; a potential \$8,000 reduction in our funding from Dane County Human Services (DCHS). Last week, we were informed by DCHS that the proposed 2012 Dane County Budget would **zero out all funding for Youth Resource Centers in Dane County**. For the MYC, this represents a cut of **17% of our annual operating budget**. If this drastic cut is realized it would become very difficult for the McFarland Youth Center to continue to provide high-quality services- the services that are so crucial to the development and well-being of our youth and so valued by the McFarland schools and community.

Fortunately, over the next two weeks, there are still many ways for us to speak out on behalf of our youth before the budget is approved. Please review the list below for ways to become involved and, if at all possible, **make your commitment** to help us and the other Youth Resource Centers throughout Dane County.

- **Attend the Dane County Public Hearing** regarding the 2012 Dane County Budget on **Monday, September 12th at 6pm at the Alliant Energy Center**.
- **Write a letter to your local newspaper in support of County funding for the MYC**. Contact the McFarland Thistle at kosten@hometownnewsgroup.com and Kris Crary (letters to the editor) at the Wisconsin State Journal at kcrary@madison.com.
- **Post your support** on the Friends of McFarland Youth Center Facebook page, or create a video on the McFarland Youth Center YouTube channel.
- **Contact your County Representatives**. Let them know that the McFarland Community is opposed to this budget line and believes in the importance of youth programs in McFarland.
 - **Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive**, City County Building, Room 421
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. □ Madison, WI 53703 □
Phone: (608) 266-4114, Email: parisi@countyofdane.com
 - **Patrick Miles, Dane County Supervisor, District 34**
410 North Pass, McFarland, WI, 53558
Phone: (608) 838-6866, Email: miles@countyofdane

All of us at the MYC thank you for advocating for our youth and for the restoration of Dane County funding to the MYC. We know that despite the uncertainties and challenges of this time, our community can succeed through coming together on behalf of our young people. Please contact me at any time at 838-3839 or at Rachel_byrd-felker@mcfarland.k12.wi.us with any questions that may arise, and check our website at www.mcfarlandyouthcenter.org for regular updates as this situation develops over the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Rachel Byrd-Felker, Managing Director, McFarland Youth Center





McFarland Youth Center
5120 Farwell Street
McFarland, WI 53558
608-838-3839
www.mcfarlandyouthcenter.org

