

Help for Today Hope for Tomorrow

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CRISIS RESPITE CENTER GRANT AWARDED

Springfield, OH – A major gap in services to help families cope with crises involving their children will soon be met with the opening of a Crisis Respite Center on the grounds of Oesterlen Services for Youth. The Mental Health & Recovery Board of Clark, Greene and Madison Counties (MHRB) has received a grant through Governor John Kasich's "Strong Families, Safe Communities" initiative to provide crisis respite and stabilization services for youth ages 8 – 24 who are from Clark, Greene and Madison Counties. Funding will come to the MHRB from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

"Family and Children First directors from the three counties, along with Oesterlen Services for Youth, immediately identified timely crisis respite services as a need in all three counties," said Dr. Kent Youngman, CEO of the MHRB. "The goal is to reduce the risk of harm and help families safely remain together."

Don Warner, CEO of Oesterlen Services for Youth, said the agency is pleased to offer the use of one of the buildings on the Oesterlen campus for crisis respite. "We see this as meeting a significant need in all three counties. Therapeutic intervention at the point of a crisis has a greater likelihood of lasting and sustaining change for youth and their families."

The award will be announced at Oesterlen in the Stevens Learning Center on Wednesday, July 31, 2013 at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Kate LeVesconte at 937-398-0233 or klevesconte@oesterlen.org.

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