



RAWHIDE YOUTH SERVICES TO BUILD A NEW COUNSELING CENTER IN FOND DU LAC

Facility Will Offer Traditional, Equine And Occupational Therapies To Youth And Families

NEW LONDON – Keller, Inc. broke ground on Rawhide Youth Services' new Fond du lac Counseling Center Dec. 21, 2020, located at U.S. highway 45 and County Highway K. A Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021 at 2 p.m. to celebrate the progress. Rawhide partners and the local community are welcome. Attendees will enjoy speakers from Rawhide and our community partners.

"Our goal with the new facility is to fully embed ourselves into the community and become a steady rock for the youth and families of Fond du Lac that are struggling," said Heather Stern, chief development officer. "Rawhide sees Fond du Lac as a big part of our growth plan. Not only because of the need but, just as important to us, is the support of the community."

During the build, the current facility (formerly the Free SPIRIT Riders location) will remain open for traditional and equine therapy. Temporary office spaces at 1020 S. Main Street, Suite D, in Fond du Lac will also be available for traditional therapy.

"We are so excited that Rawhide Youth Services is opening up a new facility in Fond du Lac," said Joseph Braun, executive director of the Fond du Lac Area Foundation. "They provide such amazing support to our at risk, hurting, and depressed youth in our community. That need is even greater now with all the chaos that we have in our world."

Due to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation acquiring Rawhide's current property for the expansion of Highway 23 and Rawhide's growth to over 200 clients, the opportunity for a new location and building was perfect timing.

With six traditional therapy rooms and 12 horse stalls for equine-assisted therapy on 37 acres of land, the new facility will provide two equine arenas for multiple equine-assisted therapy sessions to take place simultaneously, and provide equine staff more room to manage the herd and give the horses adequate pasture land to roam.

The five therapists at this facility will also continue providing services to the Fond du Lac school districts.

"Fond du Lac is an underserved community, and we're excited to be filling in the gap for at-risk youth and their families," said Tim Klunk, Rawhide's chief program officer. "We're supplying mental and behavioral health services in one convenient location to meet the youth where they're at, whether it's in their school or community."

The building is expected to be completed by June and will continue offering individual, group, family, equine-assisted, and school-based therapies--with the added bonus of occupational therapy.

“It’s been a powerful opportunity we’ve had from our introduction to the Fond du Lac community to the partners who have welcomed us and made it easy for us to serve,” said Danny Stone, Rawhide’s director of community & shared services.

A grand opening celebration will take place in late-May or early June.

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Rawhide, Inc. is a faith-based 501(c)(3) recognized charity that offers Wisconsin’s at-risk youth and families a full array of residential and community-based services to equip them with tools to build healthy relationships and behaviors that will help them overcome life’s challenges.

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