



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The Healthy Youth Coalition of Marinette and Menominee Counties (HYC) is pleased to announce that The Stephenson National Bank & Trust (SNBT) has pledged \$10,000 over four years to support the coalition's mission beyond federal funding. SNBT began supporting HYC in 2010 and has committed to do so until 2014.

"We are so grateful to The Stephenson National Bank & Trust for their generous contribution and their commitment to support our organization. Their investment will help HYC continue to operate the way it does today once federal support is no longer available. It's great to see that others believe in our mission as much as we do", states HYC Executive Director, Sarah Hanson.



"As a community bank, SNBT believes in supporting our communities in order to create a better tomorrow. HYC embodies this philosophy through their tireless work," said Daniel J. Peterson, SNBT President & CEO. "We encourage others, both individuals and businesses, to join us in our commitment to make our communities better, safer places to live." Along with monetary donations, SNBT also provides HYC with a volunteer representative who serves as a member of the committee tasked with planning its largest annual fundraiser.

HYC is a youth driven organization devoted to promoting healthy lifestyles among youth and their families throughout Marinette and Menominee Counties. The mission of the coalition is to work collaboratively with all sectors of the community to promote youth initiatives, value our youth voices and build healthy families and communities by focusing on alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention.

HYC's beginnings were profoundly influenced by a series of 5 suicides over the course of 6 months in 2001. All five youth resided in Marinette and three of them were in the graduating class of 2002. These were not "pact suicides," so the community was very concerned that suicide could become a "preferred option" for dealing with stress among our adolescents. Therefore, the early focus of HYC was on developing protective factors and making sure our youth knew they were important to the community.

In 2005, HYC was awarded a Drug Free Communities Support Grant. This is a federal grant which is awarded for only ten years. During the ten year grant period, coalitions are expected to create relationships and secure other funding sources to become self sustaining beyond federal funding. HYC will enter year nine on October 1<sup>st</sup> and is focusing on building a sustainability fund so the coalition can serve youth in the community for years to come!

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