



THE CENTER FOR
YOUTH & FAMILY
SOLUTIONS
cyfsolutions.org

Contact: Celeste Matheson, Communications Director
Office: (309) 323-6619
Cell: (309) 634-1611 **Email:** cmatheson@cyfsolutions.org

**Huiskamp Collins Makes Major Transformation Gift to
Center for Youth and Family Solutions and City of Moline
Police Social Work Project**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rock Island, Ill., March 29, 2021 – ***The Center for Youth and Family Solutions (CYFS)***, a nonprofit counseling and child welfare social work agency in the Quad Cities, has announced that **Heidi Huiskamp Collins** has made a major transformation gift of \$100,000 to the newly developed **Police Social Work** partnership project that has been created in conjunction with the **City of Moline Police Department**.

The project was designed as a response to addressing and better serving the large number of non-law enforcement calls and service requests that the Police receive daily from the community so as to screen and refer and provide service that better meets the needs of youth, adults, and families in these situations.

It is also designed to establish an increased culture of service and partnership with dignity and respect for all community members in their interactions with law enforcement in this very challenging societal context which we are seeing throughout the nation. Offering a social work service option for families, when appropriate, as well as a traditional community safety, security, and protection function is an expansion of police engagement and a progressive model of servant leadership.

The project was conceived by **Darren Gault, Chief of Police for City of Moline**, after analysis of thousands of police contacts and discussions with various community leaders and advocacy groups. Moline Police had already been managing in the field emergency mental health and victim services

referrals, wellness checks for Seniors, interventions with troubled youth, homeless support, and child trauma referrals, but saw the need as much greater than they could effectively manage on their own and wanted to do more to serve the community. ***“The Moline Police Department is fortunate to be in partnership with CYFS on this great project to improve services. This gift will greatly help expand the program to meet the enormous needs in our community.”***

Gault reached out to CYFS and the partnership began in the late summer of 2020 and has already identified hundreds of contacts that could potentially benefit from social work services. Engaging these families has been an ongoing challenging task to meet the extraordinary identified need.

The Huiskamp Collins gift will enable the project to dedicate more resources for embedding social workers at the station to respond and be dispatched quickly in the field, to allow more time for social worker ride alongs with police in the field, to expand social worker time with Police School Resource Officers (SRO) in the schools, to increase community relationship building activities in neighborhoods with the new Police Community Outreach Mobile Unit , and to conduct enhanced quality assurance research and outcome analysis in cooperation with an expert consultant faculty from St. Ambrose University.

Huiskamp Collins, a well-known QC area Philanthropist and Community Leader, was motivated to support this project after hearing of the initiative last year. ***“This collaborative program between the Moline Police Department and the Center for Youth and Family Solutions checks all the boxes for me. It addresses our neighbors suffering from insecurity around basic needs, advocacy for better mental health outcomes, inequity among diverse and disenfranchised groups and homelessness. I applaud the leadership and creativity of Chief Gault and Tony Riordan and am so humbled to play a very small role in this signature project that I hope will become a blueprint for community policing and outreach around our country.”***

The project is ongoing and will expand services this summer with the transformational gift support. The hope is to be able to implement this type of response collaboration community wide in the future. The entire team at CYFS, Moline Police Department, and the City of Moline is deeply appreciative of the extraordinary support of this pilot initiative by The United Way of the Quad Cities, The Moline Foundation, and private donors as we try to create an equitable, inclusive, and supportive community for all.

Questions can be directed to Chief Gault at (309) 797- 0401, or Anthony Riordan, Chief Operating Officer of CYFS at (309) 657- 3026.

CYFS is a not-for-profit human services agency that works with those who have been impacted by trauma, grief and loss, abuse and neglect, and other significant family life challenges. The organization provides foster care and adoption services; behavioral health counseling; crisis pregnancy counseling; intact family intervention; residential services for youth; senior services; and youth, family, and community outreach services. Its mission is to engage and serve children and families in need with dignity, compassion, and

respect by building upon individual and community strengths to resolve life challenges. **CYFS has 11 offices across Illinois, and annually serves over 20,000 individuals statewide.**

For more information on The Center for Youth and Family Solutions, please visit www.cyfsolutions.org or contact Celeste Matheson at 309-323-6619.

###