



THE CENTER FOR
YOUTH & FAMILY
SOLUTIONS
cyfsolutions.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jenny Lee Joins The Center for Youth and Family Solutions to Manage the New COVID Pandemic Recovery Program

Peoria, Ill. December 8th, 2021- The Center for Youth and Family Solutions (CYFS) recently received funding to assist in recovery efforts from the COVID pandemic for Peoria and Tazewell counties. Through a grant opportunity provided by AmeriCorps-Seniors, CYFS will have added resources for volunteer recruitment to address the needs of local communities, not-for-profits, and health care providers.

CYFS is pleased to announce that Jenny Lee will serve as the Program Director of Community Volunteerism and will lead the COVID Recovery Program of Peoria and Tazewell counties. Jenny brings with her over twenty years working in various non-for-profit roles. She comes with experience in community outreach, program development, volunteer recruitment and direct service to individuals. Jenny's dedication and motivation will bring the much-needed support to communities and their members to overcome the COVID pandemic. As Jenny stated, "never did I ever think that our world would experience such a pandemic that would continue without an end in sight. I am so excited to be able to be part of the effort to get life back to normal. "Every bit of assistance from one individual to another, makes this battle to get back to "normal" more of a reality!"

Tim Glancy, CYFS Associate Director stated, "The COVID recovery program couldn't be starting at a more opportune time, especially with the Omicron variant spreading to the United States. Our program will be supporting underserved populations of Peoria and Tazewell counties by assisting local health departments, health care providers, and health serving organizations in promoting and providing vaccinations and health education programs. We also will be supporting our local food banks, food pantries, and agencies providing meals to individuals and neighborhoods experiencing a lack of food resources due to the pandemic."

According to Illinois Department of Public Health, (IDPH), in Illinois, 1,211,410 people are facing hunger and of them 336,810 are children. Further, according to IDPH, Peoria and Tazewell counties current COVID hospitalization rates are higher than last January in the unvaccinated, so the need for COVID support for our communities is still great.

Feeding America stated in 2019 that, **84%** of counties with high child food insecurity are rural averaging **1 in 6** children being food deprived. Due to the pandemic, the average is now **1 in 4**. In addition to children facing hunger, an estimated **5.5** million seniors **age 60 and older** are food insecure, as are **4.8** million adults age **50-59**. Many seniors regularly face challenges accessing food due to mobility and transportation limitations, and with social distancing measures in place, these challenges are heightened.

According to the Peoria and Tazewell County Health Departments, as of December 8, 2021, the rate of new cases is **140**, those in isolation are **811**, and **32** hospitalized in Peoria County. Tazewell County reports, **140** new cases, **1,001** in isolation and **20** hospitalized.

The CYFS COVID Recovery Program of Peoria and Tazewell Counties has a goal of recruiting one hundred volunteers to help support its goals. The program is invested in recruiting individuals over 55 years old but will have opportunities for all adults. It is highly recommended volunteers are fully vaccinated prior to volunteering. Individuals, and community groups are welcome to help support this program. Please contact Jenny Lee at jlee@cyfsolutions.org or by calling (309) 323-6620 for further information.

CYFS is a not-for-profit social services agency that works with families 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 nearly 3,800 individuals in the Peoria area, 8,000 families in 37 counties, and 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.

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