

Counseling Program Partnership Targets Troubled Teens

By Susan J. White

The demand for mental health services for underserved teens, even in seemingly affluent communities, is “huge” and has been growing for at least the last eight years, according to Glenbrook South High School Nurse Barb Marzillo, RN.

Thanks to a new partnership with The Josselyn Center, Glenbrook High School District 225 and NorthShore’s Family Care Center Family Residency Program, NorthShore Glenbrook Hospital is funding a pilot program to provide the much-needed services.

The Community Mental Health Partnership for Youth is a collaborative effort designed to provide:

- psychiatric coordination of care for post-hospitalized, low-income students
- psychiatric evaluation for medications for students already being treated by other community programs
- evaluation risk assessment for students whose safety is a concern
- nonemergency evaluation for psychiatric services

The new program began in the spring and serves teens grappling with a variety of issues, including depression, anxiety and family struggles.

“The mental health of adolescents is a clear priority for NorthShore, where we provide an array of services. Identifying and treating mental health issues early spares the youth and family from suffering and importantly helps to get kids back on track

as soon as possible,” said Frederick Miller, MD, PhD, NorthShore Chairman of Psychiatry, who holds an academic appointment at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine.

“This is a great way to provide critical services and keep these kids in school,” Marzillo said.

“I love the access of this program. It’s awesome, and it’s nice to know there’s somebody out there who cares,” said the mother of one of the first students to be treated by the program. Her son had already missed many days



For underserved teenagers with mental health issues, finding help can be a challenge. But thanks to a new community partnership sponsored by NorthShore Glenbrook Hospital, area teens have a resource for help.

of school due to anxiety and depression, and the family could not afford psychiatric care elsewhere.

“It’s so exciting to start helping these families, one by one, and see the ripple effect,” Marzillo said. “We’re thrilled and grateful to NorthShore for the funding. This could be a model for

other hospitals and communities.”

Services are provided by appointment only and through referrals. *To schedule an appointment, please call Joanne Medak at (847) 486-4749.*

Sharply Focused on Our Communities

NorthShore’s mission “to preserve and improve human life” goes beyond the walls of our hospitals. It is carried out into the communities we serve with a broad range of community benefit initiatives and financial support.

NorthShore was one of only two health systems in the United States, and the only in Illinois, to receive the 2011 VHA Leadership Award for Community Benefit Excellence.

Total community benefits rose last year to nearly \$201 million (see breakdown by category to the right).

For more information on NorthShore’s Community Benefits, visit northshore.org/community-events/community/community-benefits-report.

