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Contact: Terri McCormick
920-209-2358

Missing Persons Network of Wisconsin, Inc.
P.O. Box 3124
Appleton, WI 54914

Missing persons group receives JJ Keller gift to fund recovery efforts for Wisconsin families

The Appleton, Wisconsin-based Missing Persons Network of Wisconsin (MPNWI) — formerly Youth Educated in Safety, or YES — has vamped up organizational operations to assist more families searching for missing loved ones, according to President and former State Representative Terri McCormick.

Founded a decade ago, the non-profit organization will undergo a massive expansion — including adding to the group's Board of Directors, a newly-designed logo and website, and hiring of professional staff — thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the JJ Keller Foundation, Inc.

The funding will help families like those of Missing Person Jenny Lee. Jenny Lee was seventeen years old at the time that she was reported missing from the Fox River Mall on November 24, 2007. MPNWI assists families like Jenny's by coordinating search efforts and working with active and retired law enforcement professionals on the case.

Jay Breyer, who founded the organization, knows how important such funding is to MPNWI. "Everyday we deal with families of missing persons in some capacity. Some suffer financial duress in addition to all the emotions and uncertainties of missing a loved one," Breyer said.

"MPNWI is one of Wisconsin's best kept secrets," McCormick said. "We are so thankful that many people don't know who we are — that means that their children and families are home and safe. Our goal is to better identify our organization and mission to better assist families like Jenny's."

McCormick — who is president of McCormick-Dawson CPG — heads the group's board. Tim Hawley, an attorney with Stollpflug, Janssen, Hammer, Kirschling & Bartels law firm, De Pere, serves as Board Attorney. Merry Wagner will act as board treasurer and accountant, while Patty Ulrich serves as Membership and Volunteer Chairperson. Jay Breyer now serves as the Executive Director and will continue his dedication to the cause of the missing.

For more information about the Missing Persons Network of Wisconsin visit www.mpnwi.org or call (920) 734-5335.