



Airport Marina Counseling Service to Continue William H. Hannon Immediate Intervention Program

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Kathleen O'Leary Lefferman, Ph.D., (left), Executive Director of the Airport Marina Counseling Service, accepts a check from Kathleen Aikenhead, President of the William H. Hannon Foundation, and David Herbst, a director of the Foundation. Pictured on the right is Nancy Iben, AMCS clinical director.

The William H. Hannon Foundation has awarded Airport Marina Counseling Service (AMCS) \$25,000 to continue the William H. Hannon Immediate Intervention Program, which enables the Westchester clinic to continue to provide critical help to community members who have experienced a recent traumatic life-changing event. First launched with the Foundation's support in 2003, this highly successful program is designed to offer urgent attention to those who are struggling with an array of challenges, such as

the death of a loved one, being a victim or witness to a crime, domestic violence, dissolution of a marriage, sudden economic loss or even a severe medical problem. According to Kathleen O'Leary Lefferman, AMCS Executive Director, the program has been re-designed and expanded to provide an even more prompt response to people in need and to ensure that both current and emerging community needs are identified and addressed. The goal of the program is to reduce or resolve an emotionally disruptive experience to a solvable problem, with hope and optimism replacing helplessness and hopelessness.

During the last year, several hundred clients have received either individual or group-based services in response to an immediate need or challenge in their lives. The value of this program is fully apparent in the words of Nancy Iben, AMCS Clinical Director. Iben says, "We cannot know how many suicides, acts of violence or other desperate or angry acts against family or community have been prevented or de-escalated through the unique William H. Hannon Immediate Intervention Program. We do know that we often intervened early enough to prevent more serious emotional or physical hurt to our clients and their families."

When presenting this generous contribution to Airport Marina Counseling Service, Kathleen Hannon Aikenhead, President of the William H. Hannon Foundation, indicated that her uncle had a deep devotion to Westchester and surrounding areas and noted his significant support for major community venues such as Loyola Marymount University, Westchester High School and St. Bernard High School. Aikenhead has carried on William Hannon's long tradition of supporting education, mental health and other key social services, thereby enhancing the community and its residents. "Hannon is a very familiar name in Westchester and we are all grateful for the enlightened support that the Foundation brings to the community," said O'Leary Lefferman.

Through the William H. Hannon Immediate Intervention Program for 2007-2008, Airport Marina will offer individual services to additional individuals and families and will continue and expand its group intervention. In 2006-2007, new groups such as the Chronic Pain group and a group for "Empowering People with Disabilities" offered critical support. "This year, the Clinic plans to develop a "Caregivers Group" for persons attending to elderly or ill family members and to respond to other community needs as identified. This would not be possible without the generosity of the William H. Hannon Foundation," said O'Leary Lefferman.

About the William H. Hannon Foundation:

Based in Santa Monica, California, The William H. Hannon Foundation was founded in 1983 by the late Catholic philanthropist and real estate developer William H. Hannon. Following his service in World War II, Mr. Hannon returned to Los Angeles to develop residential communities and commercial shopping centers across Southern California. Today, the Foundation carries on Mr. Hannon's goals of supporting Catholic churches and schools, as well as hospitals and social service organizations that are focused on improving the lives of people in the communities Mr. Hannon helped build.