

January 31, 2011

National Awards for Wisconsin Homeless Program

Wisconsin won two of five 2010 awards from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY). NAEHCY gives one award annually across the United States. The Green Bay Area Public School District won the 2010 *Outstanding School-Based Program Award*, and two Wisconsin documentaries tied for the *Outstanding Media Presentation Award*. NEWIST/TV 38 and the School District of Beloit each created a documentary on unaccompanied youth who are homeless.

Sixteen Hours, Forty-nine Minutes or *16:49:00*, Beloit's documentary, was given its title based on some homeless students' most challenging time – when the school day ends until the next school day begins. Rock County indentified over 100 students last year who were homeless with no place to go. The school districts of Beloit and Janesville, along with a coalition of community agencies, are raising \$700,000 for a youth shelter in Rock County. Please watch this short video of one student's story at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24TwORsNpJ0>.

NEWIST/CESA 7, in Green Bay, produced a 2009 *Teen Connection program* about homeless students and this year created the documentary, *The Hidden Homeless*, which aired on Wisconsin Public Television in September 2010.

Wisconsin has received five NAEHCY awards within the last seven years:

- 2004: Madison Metropolitan School District;
- 2006: Kenosha Unified School District – Shalom Center After-School Program;
- 2007: Wisconsin Rapids School District;
- 2010: Green Bay Area Public Schools; and
- 2010: Newist/TV 38 and the School District of Beloit