

Expanding Access to All



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: 11/20/2013  
Contacts: Ruth Kraut, Washtenaw Health Plan  
(734) 544-3068 or (734) 649-2401  
[krautr@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:krautr@ewashtenaw.org)

Ellen Clement, Corner Health Center  
**(734) 358-1803**  
[eclement@cornerhealth.org](mailto:eclement@cornerhealth.org)

Katie Doyle, Ozone House  
**(734) 945-7556**  
[kdoyle@ozonehouse.org](mailto:kdoyle@ozonehouse.org)

**Flinn Foundation Grants Benefit Local Nonprofits:  
Corner Health Center, Ozone House, and Washtenaw Health Plan Focus on Teen & Immigrant  
Mental Health**

A trio of new grants will now serve local teens and immigrants with mental health needs. The Corner Health Center, Ozone House, and the Washtenaw Health Plan announced today that they have each received grants from the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation. Teens and immigrants face many challenges to accessing mental health services, and these grants work to improve that access.

The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation has awarded each organization approximately \$50,000 for one year to improve mental health services in Washtenaw County. Ellen Rabinowitz, Executive Director of the Washtenaw Health Plan, commented, "These investments are critical to the health of our community. Currently, effective and appropriate mental health care is incredibly difficult for young people and immigrant families to access – no matter how great their need." For the Corner Health Center, that means integrated primary care and mental health services. For Ozone House, the focus will be on screening, assessment, diagnosis and treatment of the mental health needs for homeless youth. And for the Washtenaw Health Plan, a community needs assessment focused on immigrant mental health will go hand-in-hand with bilingual counseling—in Arabic and Spanish--provided by Jewish Family Services and Catholic Social Services.

The Corner Health Center, which provides health care to youth aged 12 to 21 and their children, has received a one-year grant to improve the quality and scope of their mental health services. Over the past year, mental health visits at the Corner have increased by 100%. Stress, trauma and depression make it

difficult for young people to succeed in school. According to Corner Executive Director, Ellen Clement , "mental health checkups in primary care are an ideal opportunity to help young people early when treatment is most effective." Starting in January, a part-time psychiatric nurse practitioner will join the Corner's staff to provide and coordinate patient care with psychiatrists and other clinicians. Flinn Foundation resources will also support the training of clinical staff in a more comprehensive range of evidence-based treatment.

At Ozone House, a one-year grant for \$50,000 will support the work of licensed clinical therapists. They will provide early mental health screening, assessment, diagnosis, and individual and family therapy for homeless youth ages 12-20 in Washtenaw County through the Youth and Family Support Program. Notes Katie Doyle, Executive Director at Ozone House, "High-risk youth are often unable to access mental health services because of a lack of insurance or income to pay for services, or because they have been disenfranchised from traditional institutions. In fact, homeless youth are at an increased risk for mental health problems, and they are more likely to have experienced trauma than their peers in the general population." More than 70% of young people who come to Ozone House experience mental health concerns in addition to housing instability. Youth at Ozone House have experienced high rates of trauma, abuse, violence among caregivers, familial mental illness or substance abuse, homelessness/housing instability, and interpersonal loss.

The Washtenaw Health Plan is dedicated to expanding access to health care and improving the health status of low-income uninsured Washtenaw County residents by developing programs in partnership with local health care organizations. With the help of a one-year, \$47,000 Flinn Foundation grant, the Washtenaw Health Plan will do a community needs assessment of barriers to mental health access for low-income immigrants. Ellen Rabinowitz, Executive Director of the Washtenaw Health Plan, said, "We know that many immigrants have language and cultural barriers, and many of them are refugees from places where they have experienced war and other trauma. The needs assessment will help us identify those areas of highest need, and allow us to create strategies to facilitate access." In addition to the community-wide needs assessment, the Washtenaw Health Plan will work with two key partners—Jewish Family Services and Catholic Social Services—to provide bilingual mental health counseling in Arabic (JFS) and Spanish (CSS). Both JFS and CSS serve large numbers of immigrants already, but have found it difficult to provide mental health counseling in immigrants' native languages.

The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation is a Detroit based private foundation established in 1976 by Ethel "Peggy" Flinn and her brother, James "Jim" Flinn, Jr. Peggy passed away in 1994. Jim Flinn, Jr., who was diagnosed with schizophrenia in his early 20's, led a remarkable life until his passing away in 2007 at the age of 91. The Foundation is committed to improving the scope, quality and delivery of mental health services in Michigan. Since inception, over \$24 million in grants have been awarded. The foundation's geographic focus is primarily Southeast Michigan, defined as the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. For more information about the Flinn Foundation, visit the Flinn Foundation web site at [www.flinnfoundation.org](http://www.flinnfoundation.org) or contact Andrea Cole, Executive Director and CEO at (313) 309-3436.

# # #