



PRESS RELEASE

FOR May 24, 2012

CONTACT: Cyndi Wood

294-7998 x 3111

cyndiw@trhome.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kristin Rucinski Selected as The Road Home Dane County Executive Director

(May 24, 2012) The Road Home Dane County Board of Directors is pleased to announce its selection of Kristin Rucinski as Executive Director. Rucinski has served as a case manager for the organization since 2007, lead case manager since 2010 and as the interim Executive Director for the past five months. She was selected after an extensive national and local search.

“Kristin’s unique combination of skills – hands-on experience working with homeless families with children, plus experience with and solid insight into fundraising and development – gave her a considerable edge over many national candidates,” said Board President David Michael. “The ease and grace with which she assumed the interim Executive Director position confirmed the Board’s sense that she was the right person for the job.”

Ms. Rucinski holds bachelor degrees in psychology and criminal justice with minors in human development and family studies from Indiana University-Bloomington. She worked with children with autism before obtaining her master’s degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2007. She was hired by The Road Home Dane County as the Shelter Case Manager immediately after graduation.

In just five years with The Road Home Dane County, Rucinski has demonstrated her ability to make an impact on the lives of the individuals she serves and to provide an exceptional level of leadership to the organization. She served as the first on-site case manager for Housing & Hope, two apartment buildings located on Vera Court in Madison that The Road Home purchased in 2009 to help homeless families establish long-term, stable housing.

“Kristin distinguished herself very quickly by establishing relationships with individuals, schools, police, social services and others in the neighborhood who could assist The Road Home families,” says David Michael. “She also won the trust of the families in the apartment units and helped them foster the sense that they were an important part of something much bigger than themselves which motivated them to invest their time and energy into becoming successful tenants.”



Michael added that during her five-month tenure as interim Executive Director, Rucinski worked with Meridian Group, Inc. to acquire two more apartment buildings that will allow The Road Home to complete Phase II of the Housing & Hope project this year. “Her exemplary work with realtors, city officials and financial institutions in bringing Phase II to reality was remarkable and demonstrated her ability to work effectively under considerable stress and tight deadlines.”

Rucinski credits her parents for instilling the characteristics in her to make a difference where social injustices exist, and says: “Children deserve to have a safe place to live, sleep, learn, grow and develop. I’m so very glad to be in a community that shares my passion for social justice so we can work together on this important issue. We continue to turn away hundreds of families from shelter each year, but I am looking forward to expanding the scope of services we can offer through my work as Executive Director for the Road Home Dane County.”

The Road Home Dane County is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established in 1999 whose mission is to provide housing to homeless families with children and help them to stabilize and reach significant goals while treating them with respect and dignity. The Road Home served 139 families, including 306 children in 2011.

###

The Road Home Dane County Services:

- Interfaith Hospitality Shelter Network: Shelters homeless families through a network of area churches and synagogues. Daytime shelter and case management services are provided at The Road Home’s office and day center.
- Housing & Hope: Provides affordable, permanent housing and on-site case management services for 15 apartments.
- Second Chance Apartment Project: Creates affordable housing through a partnership with the YWCA of Madison and sponsoring organizations.
- Housing Stabilization: Provides continuing support to families who successfully move from shelter into housing.
- House-Ability: Provides affordable, permanent housing and case management services for 23 homeless families that have a parent with a disability in collaboration with the YWCA of Madison and The Salvation Army.
- Rapid Rehousing: Helps 45 homeless families each year with first month’s rent, security deposit, a shallow rental subsidy and intensive case management. This is also in collaboration with the YWCA of Madison, The Salvation Army and United Way of Dane County.