



A community mental health center for
CHILDREN &
families

WASHBURN

CENTER FOR CHILDREN

where to turn for help

**WASHBURN CENTER FOR CHILDREN HONORED AS PART OF
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY**

Minn. Gov. Dayton, Minneapolis Mayor Rybak proclaim "Washburn Center for Children Day," reinforce civic commitment to helping kids in need

MINNEAPOLIS – May 3, 2011 – [Washburn Center for Children](#), a 128-year-old Minneapolis-based nonprofit serving children with social, emotional and behavioral problems, has been honored with state and city proclamations in recognition of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

Governor Mark Dayton and Mayor R.T. Rybak have proclaimed May 3, 2011 "Washburn Center for Children Day" in Minnesota and Minneapolis, honoring the organization's efforts to help families struggling with mental health challenges. Washburn provides home-based, school-based, day treatment and outpatient mental health services to nearly 2,500 Twin Cities children each year, including many living below the poverty line.

"We are thrilled to be recognized by Governor Dayton and Mayor Rybak. Their support has helped Washburn make the community more aware of the critical impact children's mental health services has on families, schools and every community member," said Steve Lepinski, executive director of Washburn Center for Children. "Our collective commitment to children's mental health is a fundamental, foundational part of what makes our community a great place to raise a family."

One out of every five children and adolescents experience mental health difficulties, but only 20 percent of those children will get the help they need. When children receive early treatment for emotional and behavioral issues at Washburn, they do better in school, build better relationships and are more likely to become a successful adult.

"Washburn Center for Children is an integral part of a caring community, with parents, teachers and a wide range of community organizations turning to Washburn for help addressing children's mental health concerns," Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton stated as part of his official proclamation. "I invite citizens to observe this day in recognition of Washburn Center for Children and its role in ensuring our children can continue to grow and thrive in a state where children's mental health is a priority."

Minneapolis is home to Washburn's primary clinical center as well as seven school-based program locations as part of its partnership with Minneapolis Public Schools. In recognition of the organization's many contributions, Mayor R.T. Rybak praised Washburn's role in supporting a healthy Minneapolis.

"Children's mental health interventions make a lasting improvement in the lives of every community member by improving educational outcomes, reducing juvenile crime and creating healthier, safer communities," Mayor Rybak said as part of his proclamation. "Washburn's clinical staff leads the way in helping thousands of Minneapolis children and their families each year change their lives for the better."

About Washburn Center for Children

Washburn Center for Children is Minnesota's leading children's mental health center, caring for a wide variety of children's needs such as trauma, anxiety, depression and learning difficulties. When children with social, emotional and behavioral challenges receive early intervention, they are less likely to fail academically, drop out of school or become involved in the juvenile justice system. The nonprofit serves nearly 2,500 children annually in its Minneapolis, Minnetonka and Brooklyn Park clinics and through 18 schools in the Eden Prairie, Bloomington and Minneapolis school districts. www.washburn.org

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