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Stories of the Uninsured in Wisconsin

Madison--The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) today published the first two in a series of stories collected from state residents who do not have health insurance. WCCF will be releasing a total of ten such stories over the next few weeks. The stories released today feature the Bork family of Independence and the Johnson family of Milwaukee. The stories are available on the WCCF website at http://wccf.org/health_stories.php.

WCCF conducted interviews between July and mid-September of 2007. Many of the people interviewed would benefit from changes in the proposed BadgerCare Plus program that would remove administrative barriers to enrollment and expand eligibility for certain populations, including farm families.

“Wisconsin has made great progress in making health care coverage available to state residents,” said WCCF Executive Director Charity Eleson. “These stories underscore the importance of sustaining our efforts until every single child and family in the state is insured. By moving forward with BadgerCare Plus, we can be well on our way toward that goal.”

A recent WCCF fact sheet, available online at http://www.wccf.org/pdf/hc_fiscallyresponsible_%20final.pdf, demonstrates that providing health insurance for children is highly cost effective. Wisconsin has one of the lowest rates of uninsured children in the nation; therefore insuring all of the state’s kids is a very attainable goal. The fact sheet illustrates that insuring children is a sound investment, making the goal of insuring all children both achievable and fiscally responsible.

WCCF is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit agency that promotes policies to maximize the well-being of the state’s children and families through research, public education and advocacy.