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**For immediate Release**  
October 4, 2007

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### **Stories of the Uninsured in Wisconsin**

Madison--The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) today published the third and fourth 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 Staffield family of Madison and the Viola family of Milwaukee. All of the stories published to date are available on the WCCF website at [http://wccf.org/health\\_stories.php](http://wccf.org/health_stories.php).

WCCF conducted interviews between July and mid-September of 2007. Most of the families interviewed would benefit from implementation of the proposed BadgerCare Plus program. All of them would gain health care coverage from the enactment of Healthy Wisconsin, a plan passed by the State Senate earlier this year but subsequently withdrawn from the state budget debate. Many of the families interviewed have children. Those kids are among the 4 million uninsured children nationwide who would gain access to coverage under the SCHIP reauthorization bill approved last week by Congress but vetoed this week by President Bush.

We are pleased to report that since we wrote the Staffield family's story, Nate was able to get Medicaid coverage, and we hope that development will be a happy ending for their story. BadgerCare Plus would spare families in a similar situation the financial hardship and anxiety that Deb Staffield experienced by sending a clear message that all citizen children are eligible for coverage.

"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\\_final.pdf](http://www.wccf.org/pdf/hc_fiscallyresponsible_final.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.