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### **Stories of the Uninsured in Wisconsin, part 3**

Madison--The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) today published the fifth and sixth in a series of stories collected from state residents who do not have health insurance. WCCF is releasing a total of ten such stories this fall. The stories released today feature Sharon Mras of Stevens Point and Linda Condie of Madison. 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 people 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coverage from the enactment of Healthy Wisconsin, a plan passed by the State Senate earlier this year but subsequently withdrawn from the state budget debate.

The two stories released today illustrate the plight of childless adults who are uninsured and struggling to afford the health care they need. Wisconsin currently provides no Medicaid or BadgerCare coverage to childless adults, regardless of how poor they are. Childless adults constitute the largest demographic group among Wisconsin's uninsured residents. There were an estimated 235,000 non-elderly adults (ages 19-64) who were uninsured for the entire year in 2005, and the majority of them, about 149,000, did not have dependent children living in the home.

The second phase of the BadgerCare Plus proposal would help an estimated 71,000 people like Sharon Mras and Linda Condie by giving low-income childless adults access to a basic health insurance plan. Of course, they would also gain health care coverage from the enactment of Healthy Wisconsin, and that would offer a more comprehensive benefit plan.

“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 person in the state is insured. By moving forward with BadgerCare Plus, we can be well on our way toward that goal.”

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.