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**The Johnson Foundation Explores School-Based Mental Health Care**  
*Experts weigh in on bringing mental health services to schools  
through Inspiring Solutions dialogue*

RACINE, Wis. (June 3, 2014) – Today The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread unveiled its latest [Inspiring Solutions](#) dialogue on school-based mental health, a comprehensive health care approach that brings mental health services directly to children where they spend much of their time – in schools.

“Research shows that around 80 percent of children and youth with a diagnosable mental health disorder don’t receive the services they need,” said Ashley Staeck, Senior Community Program Associate at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. “Providing a school-based mental health program brings much-needed care directly to children and helps schools improve academic performance, ensure a safe and healthy learning environment, identify and respond to mental health needs, and provide support to students and families.”

*Inspiring Solutions* is an online platform the Foundation uses to expand important dialogue beyond the walls of Wingspread. Respected experts and leading authorities are asked one question about their field, which revolves around the work the Foundation is doing. Their answers are presented as short essays, which present that individual’s view of the issue at hand. This format allows for a robust exchange of ideas and builds on the Foundation’s longstanding tradition of providing a place of neutrality and trust – whether at the Foundation in Racine or online.

Contributors were invited to explore and offer insight on what some of the greatest opportunities and challenges are to implementing school-based mental health services and what can be done to ensure the success of the students and families they serve. Contributors to the dialogue include: Eric Gallien, Assistant Superintendent at Racine Unified School District; Julie Hueller, Vice President of Operations at Wheaton Franciscan Health Care – All Saints; Mark Sander, Mental Health Coordinator at Hennepin County and Minneapolis Public Schools; and Karen Johnston, Grant Coordinator and Mental Health Consultant for the United Way Fox Cities.

“Inspiring Solutions is a true representation of what The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread is – a place to convene, share ideas and find innovative solutions with sustained impact,” said Staeck. “Bringing these diverse perspectives together is vital to tackling the challenges we face in addressing the mental health needs of our community and of our nation.”

The dialogue is a continuation of a briefing sponsored by The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread and the [Racine Collaborative for Children’s Mental Health](#) on school-based mental health. The briefing featured presentations from local experts on the need, approaches, outcomes and challenges associated with delivering mental health services in schools. The briefing was followed up by a [free webinar](#) where technical strategies for developing and delivering school-based mental health services were presented.

This installment of Inspiring Solutions aligns with the Foundation's work with Racine Collaborative for Children's Mental Health, a local community initiative first convened by the Foundation in September 2012 to bring together a group of individuals representing a broad spectrum of the Racine community to identify the challenges and find pathways forward to deliver quality, coordinated and comprehensive support services for children's mental health. The work of the Collaborative is informed and guided by a research project undertaken by The Johnson Foundation in 2011 on the issue of children's mental health, which culminated in a Foundation report titled: "[Top of Mind: Children's Mental Health in Racine – Highlighting facts and uncovering urgent needs.](#)"

To learn more about *Inspiring Solutions* or the Racine Collaborative for Children's Mental Health, visit: [www.johnsonfdn.org](http://www.johnsonfdn.org).

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The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for change by bringing together leading thinkers and inspiring new solutions on major environmental and regional issues. For additional information or to learn more about The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, please visit [www.johnsonfdn.org](http://www.johnsonfdn.org).