

## Wellspring and Calvary Lutheran Church Conditional Use Permit Application

Wellspring and Calvary Lutheran Church are applying for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a Teenage Care Center in a Medium Residential Zoning area in Rapid City. Wellspring is purchasing the property currently owned by Calvary Lutheran Church at 3402 Cottonwood St., Rapid City to house a Wellspring teenage counseling center and administrative offices.

### Program

The administrative offices will open at 8:00 a.m. The counseling program will operate from 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Activities that will take place in the Center include:

- ✓ Transportation from school to the Center
- ✓ Intake and assessment of clients
- ✓ Individual and Family Counseling
- ✓ Group counseling of adolescents
- ✓ Family meetings
- ✓ Parenting education
- ✓ Life Skills Education
- ✓ Homework Help
- ✓ Tutoring
- ✓ Evening Meal
- ✓ Administrative functions
- ✓ Board and committee meetings
- ✓ Community education

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Public Health  
 Municipal Department

### Site Plan

There will be no changes to the driveways, parking lot, parking stalls, landscape, setback, utility service lines or sidewalks. Wellspring's name will replace Calvary Lutheran Church's name on the existing sign. The only structural changes we plan are the installation of a sprinkling system and wheelchair lift to meet fire and safety codes and the requirements of the American's With Disabilities Act.

## History and Mission

Wellspring, Inc. is a South Dakota non-profit corporation located in Rapid City, SD. Wellspring provides family based therapeutic services for youth who cannot function in their family, the open community and the open school setting due to mental, emotional and/or chemical dependency problems. The Wellspring program is based on the fundamental assumption that families have the potential to be the greatest source of positive change and support for youth in trouble. Our program emphasizes a holistic approach to therapeutic and educational programs that address risk and resilience factors in youth and their families. Our goal is to facilitate the development and maintenance of healthy environments that enable those at risk to develop life skills necessary for contributing, fulfilling lives. Since 1994, Wellspring has provided services to well over 15,000 youth and family members.

Due to an increase in the need for services, Wellspring has expanded our services to include outpatient programs as well as residential and inpatient programs. In 2003 Wellspring was able to serve 18 youth at any one time. In 2006 that number has increased to 94 youth.

Wellspring offers a variety of services designed to provide the most effective treatment for the assessed needs of the individual client. They include 1) Family-based Therapy; 2) Family-based Outreach; 3) Family Reconciliation Program (residential); 4) Youth Challenge (after school) Program; 5) Inpatient Chemical Dependency Program; 6) Outpatient Chemical Dependency Program (after school) and 7) Community Education Programs.

Wellspring has entered an agreement with Calvary Lutheran Church to purchase the property at 3402 Cottonwood Street for a permanent home for our administrative offices and outpatient services, pending approval of our request for a conditional use permit.

## Outpatient Treatment

The **YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM**, offers structured activities in four-hour blocks of time up to six days a week. The goal of the Youth Challenge Program is to endow each young person with skills so he or she will overcome destructive thinking patterns, learn to change inappropriate responses to anger, and develop constructive behaviors.

*Since its inception 10 years ago, Wellspring has been one of the most exceptional, forward-thinking, creative and essential programs in the Rapid City community. It is an extremely effective facility for helping children with mental, emotional and chemical problems.*

*My only criticism of Wellspring is its failure to have sufficient space and capacity to provide for the needs of children as is necessary. This limitation is not because of professional inabilities, but only because of funding necessities. I look with great anticipation to them being able to provide enhanced day treatment for children and families in their Youth Challenge Program Center.*

--Merton B. Tice  
Seventh Judicial Circuit Judge

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PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

Because research tells us that most deviant behavior occurs during the hours of 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. youth are transported from school to our Day Treatment facility by Wellspring staff or parents each day at the close of school. Youth remain under our care until 8:30 p.m. when their parents pick them up.

We provide homework help, tutoring, life skills education, group therapy and an evening meal. Daily involvement with parents is also an important part of this program.

Services are provided to young people who lack social skills and are experiencing significant difficulties in their homes, schools and/or communities, but who do not require 24-hour supervision or more restrictive out-of-home placement. Often these youth are involved with the juvenile courts or are exhibiting behavior that may ultimately result in court involvement. Without successful intervention, these youth will likely require an out-of-home placement in a costly residential treatment or juvenile corrections setting.

Each day each client receives:

- Transportation from school (when school is in session)
- 1 ½ hour of group therapy
- 1 ½ hour of life skills education
- Homework help/tutoring
- An afternoon snack
- Supper

An estimated number of 64 youth (plus family members) will be served by the Youth Challenge Program per week.

Wellspring, Inc. has become the supporting agency for the **SOARING EAGLE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT CENTER FOR ADOLESCENTS**. Because Southern Hills Treatment Center resolved to focus their efforts on the Southern Hills, they decided to either close Soaring Eagle or transfer responsibility and ownership to a responsible Rapid City agency and invited Wellspring to become the sponsoring agency. Our board of directors did not want to see this valuable service disappear from our community, so they raised start-up funds from the community and took ownership on January 1, 2006.

Wellspring's outpatient chemical dependency treatment program for adolescents is designed to diagnose, stabilize, counsel, and build family and social support systems, which promote abstinence and growth. Adolescent outpatient services include treatment appropriate for misuse of alcohol and other drugs, in addition to treatment for addiction.

The Soaring Eagle program provides a wide range of outpatient chemical dependency treatment services including

- assessment,
- treatment planning
- individual and family counseling
- intensive outpatient treatment group,
- day treatment groups,
- continued care groups,

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- continuing care groups
- prevention and education

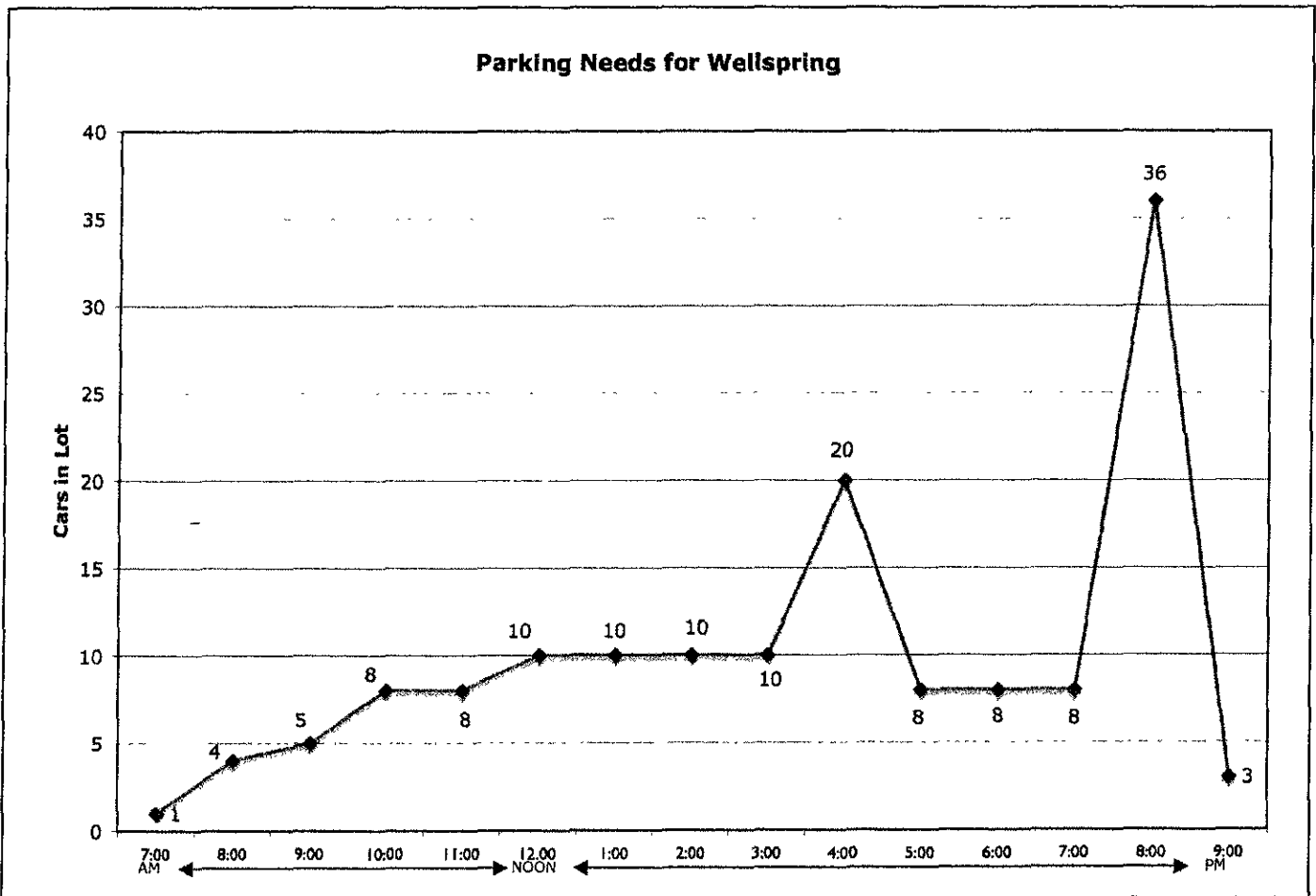
The Soaring Eagle Treatment Center currently provides treatment to approximately 25 youth (plus family members) per week.

**Geographic area served:**

Wellspring primarily serves youth and their families from the Rapid City and Black Hills areas due to the desire to involve family in the treatment process. Nearly 100% of the youth and family members participating in **Wellspring's Outpatient programs** are from Rapid City

Because our programs operate during after school hours and because most of our clients are youth between the ages of 12 and 19, we will utilize Wellspring vans to pick up the children from school and transport them to the facility. Some parents choose to provide transportation themselves. Youth are picked up by their parents by 8:30 p.m. Therefore, the peak hours for parking at our facility are from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 8:30 to 9:00 p.m.

The chart, below, illustrates the parking needs for Wellspring employees and clients.



The capacity of the current parking lot on the property is 109 spaces.