



adam's
place

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Every Child's Life Matters.

POTOSI, WI--Representatives from Adam's Place, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe environment for at-risk youth, will discuss plans to build a proposed facility near Potosi at a community meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Potosi High School Livens Auditorium.

The Toledo family founded Adam's Place in memory of their 13-year-old son, Adam, who was shot to death in March by a Chicago police officer. Members of the family are expected to be present, along with their attorneys Adeena Weiss Ortiz and Joel Hirschhorn, who is spearheading Adam's Place development as chairman of the organization's Board of Directors.

"I'm excited that Mr. Hirschhorn has decided to do this public open house to answer questions from community members," said Potosi School District Administrator Kurt Cohen. "He's been very forthcoming with information that he has shared with us at the district."

The Potosi School District has about 300 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and serves the Village of Potosi, the Village of Tennyson, and surrounding townships, including the Township of Potosi, in Grant County, Wisconsin. Boys in residence at Adam's Place would attend Potosi schools.

Plans call for Adam's Place to be built on a 70-acre parcel on Dutch Hollow Road about 0.7 mile west of Potosi. Fifty acres will remain in cultivated farmland under a three-year lease with the current tenant farmer with most of the remaining 20 acres in pasture for grazing cattle and sheep. The purchase of the property was completed July 2.

Architectural plans in development include a small welcome center and administrative office; a barn; and a 5,000-square-foot split-level home to house no more than 10 boys, along with an attached apartment for the house parents and their family.

Adam's Place will be modeled on the highly regarded Boys Farm in Newberry, S.C., which over 60 years has helped more than 1,000 adolescent boys in difficult family situations grow into educated, caring, and productive young men. Walter D. Shealy, III, Boys Farm board President and CEO and son of the home's founders Rev. and Mrs. W.D. Shealy, Jr., has generously offered his support and counsel to Adam's Place.

The mission of Adam's Place is to provide a safe and nurturing haven in a rural setting where at-risk youth from Chicago and other Midwestern cities can develop skills, values, and self-worth by learning to care for the natural world, others, and themselves. Potosi is about 185 miles and a 3.5 hour-drive from Chicago.

In establishing Adam's Place, the Toledo family wants to help other families who struggle, as they did, to keep their sons away from the lure of the streets and out of harm's way. Adam Toledo was shot by Chicago Police Officer Eric Stillman on March 29 when he complied with the officer's order to stop running and show his hands. Footage from a police camera shows Adam standing with his hands raised and empty as he is shot once in the chest. An investigation into Adam's death is ongoing.

"Every child's life matters, every child deserves the opportunity to thrive and grow into a decent, honest, kind, respectful, educated, and productive person," said Hirschhorn. "We are grateful to Boys Farm and to the many members of the greater Potosi community who have expressed a positive interest in this most worthwhile and heartfelt project. If we can save even one child from life on the streets, the time, emotional, and monetary investment will be well worth our efforts."

Adam's Place has raised almost a third of its of its \$1 million fund-raising goal in cash donations and pledges since the campaign was announced in May. The organization is seeking private funding exclusively and does not plan to pursue public money, Hirschhorn said.

For media inquiries, please contact Debbie M. Price, at debbie@priceandpricecreative.com or (937) 430-7779. Thank you.

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