



Wisconsin State Public Defender

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**** PRESS RELEASE ****

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Wisconsin Cares About Kids Award to be given to the Milwaukee County Detention Center

First Lady Jessica Doyle to present award to B. Thomas Wanta & the staff of the Center

(Madison) B. Thomas Wanta and the staff of the Milwaukee County Detention Center will receive the *Wisconsin Cares About Kids Award* at 1:00 pm on April 25, 2007. The award, sponsored by Governor Jim Doyle and the State Public Defender's Office, formally recognizes extraordinary efforts in working with children. The ceremony will be held in the courtroom of Judge Thomas Donegan, Branch 45, in the Milwaukee County Children's Court Center located at 10201 West Watertown Plank Road in Wauwatosa.

In addition to First Lady Jessica Doyle, Public Defender Board Member Joe Morales and Deputy State Public Defender Kelli Thompson will present the award.

The Milwaukee County Detention Center works with the juvenile justice system in providing a safe environment for children ordered held in detention. The center is responsible for a large group of children each and every day. The Center is respectful of the children, and trained to work with any challenges presented by children and a constantly changing population.

Recipients of The Wisconsin Cares About Kids Award are shining examples of the difference individuals and organizations can make – and are making – in their communities. The award was started in 1998, and B. Thomas Wanta and the staff of the Milwaukee County Detention Center is the 22nd recipient.

Public Defender Board Chair Dan Berkos noted, "The staff of the Milwaukee County Detention Center treat each child at the center with respect and dignity, as well as with a genuine concern for their health, education and safety."

"While at the center, the children are expected to attend classes led by dedicated teachers. It's obvious that the staff working at the center are trying to create a better future for the children," added Berkos.

State Public Defender Nicholas L. Chiarkas added, "Wisconsin and its communities gain from the efforts of *Wisconsin Cares About Kids Award* winners. Recipients such as Tom Wanta and the staff of the Milwaukee County Detention Center make a marked impact on the State of Wisconsin and our communities."

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