

Start Healing Now

FEB 2026

Volume 2

Edition 2

The Work Ahead...

As we step into 2026, one thing is clear: progress happens when communities come together. Across Wisconsin and beyond, Start Healing Now spent 2025 doing what we believe matters most—saving lives, supporting recovery, and helping communities heal through action, education, and compassion. Behind each number, each policy effort, and each prevention tool is a person, a family, and a community choosing to respond to this crisis with care instead of stigma.

Schools Are a Critical Part of Prevention

One of SHN's core priorities continues to be student-accessible naloxone and evidence-based prevention education in schools.

Federal legislation like the FACTS Act (H.R. 3130) and the Protecting Kids from Fentanyl Act (H.R. 2383) reflects what families and educators already know: Kids need accurate information and schools need tools, training, and funding. Naloxone should be treated like an AED—lifesaving when seconds matter.

Here in Wisconsin, proposed legislation would require naloxone in schools and provide grant funding to make it possible. We are grateful to legislators willing to lead on this issue and hopeful for bipartisan support focused on one shared goal: **keeping kids alive.**



Looking Ahead to 2026

As we move forward, Start Healing Now will continue to:

- Expand overdose prevention and naloxone access
- Support recovery pathways and education
- Partner with schools and communities
- Honor lives lost by preventing future loss

None of this happens without you—our supporters, partners, parents, educators, and advocates who believe that compassion saves lives.

Together, we are proving that healing is possible—and that action matters.

Stay tuned for more information about SHN's 2026 goals and priorities in the months ahead.

Why Every High School Should Have Narcan

At Start Healing Now, we believe saving lives starts with access. That's why we advocate for student-accessible Naloxone (Narcan) in every high school.

Naloxone is a safe, FDA-approved medication that reverses opioid overdoses. When it's available immediately, it saves lives. When it's locked away or restricted, critical time can be lost.

Access Beyond the School Building

Overdoses don't only happen at school. They happen at home, in cars, at parties, and in the community—often when young people are present. Student-accessible naloxone means students can access it at school and carry it in a backpack, keep it in a car, or have it at home.

This access allows students to help friends, family members, or even strangers when emergencies happen outside the school day.

Students Are Often the First to Respond

In many overdose emergencies, students are already on scene before adults or emergency responders arrive. Naloxone is easy to use, cannot be abused, and has no effect if opioids are not present—making it safe for anyone to administer.

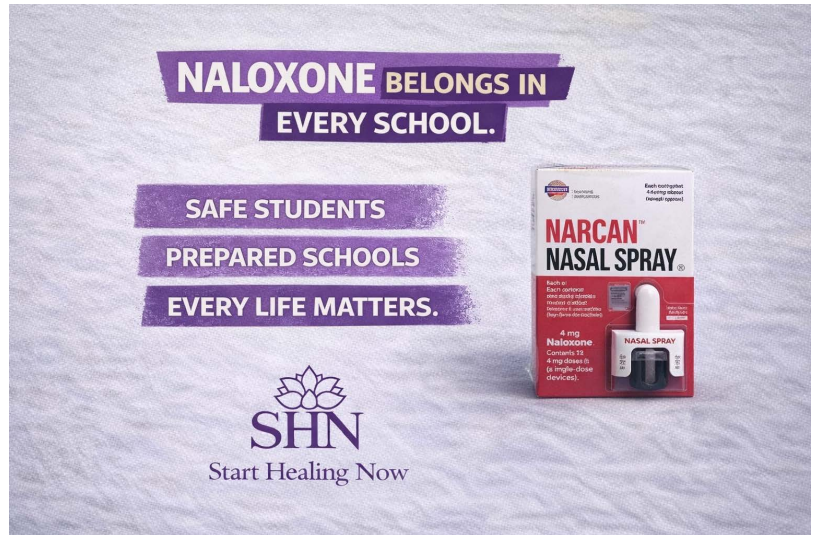
Providing student-accessible naloxone recognizes reality and responds with preparation, compassion, and trust.



Start Healing Now



Learn more about OAKs



A Small Step With a Big Impact

Through our Overdose Aid Kit (O.A.K.) Program, Start Healing Now partners with schools to install visible, unlocked naloxone kits—similar to AEDs—and provide education, training, and ongoing support.

Student-accessible naloxone is a low-cost, high-impact safety measure that extends protection beyond school walls and into the community.

Call to Action

If you are a parent, educator, student, or community member and would like to bring student-accessible naloxone to a high school in your area, we want to hear from you:

Contact us at info@starthealingnow.org

Learn more at starthealingnow.org/overdose-aid-kits

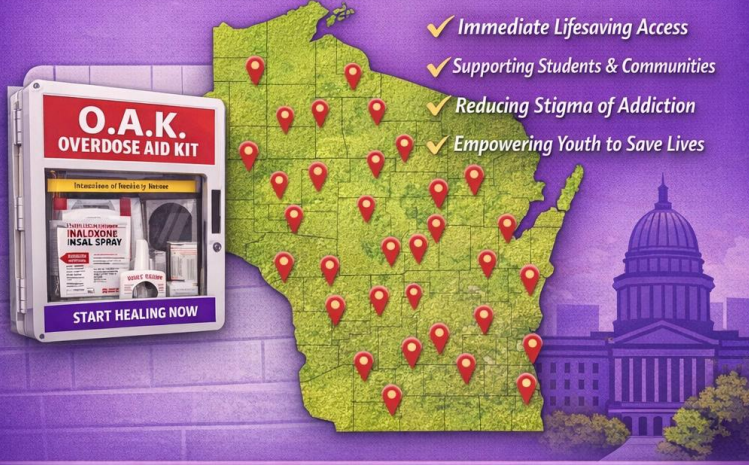
Wisconsin Schools with Overdose Aid Kits

Across Wisconsin, more than 60 school buildings in 20+ school districts are equipped with Overdose Aid Kits (OAK) containing naloxone.

60+ Schools. 20+ Districts. One Mission: Save Lives.

Wisconsin Schools with Overdose Aid Kits
Saving Lives with Naloxone (Narcan)

60+ Schools. 20+ Districts.
One Mission: Save Lives.



- ✓ Immediate Lifesaving Access
- ✓ Supporting Students & Communities
- ✓ Reducing Stigma of Addiction
- ✓ Empowering Youth to Save Lives

Prepared • Visible • Life-Saving

StartHealingNow.org
Because Silence Costs Lives.

Be a District That Leads

Every district must decide:

Will we be prepared — or will we wait?

Join the growing number of Wisconsin school systems that are choosing action over hesitation.

Visit StartHealingNow.org

Contact us to equip your district today!

60+ Schools. 20+ Districts. One Mission: Save Lives.

Education Partners with OAKs

Schools across urban, suburban, rural, public, private, and tribal communities are choosing preparedness over stigma — and protection over silence.

Public Schools

Altoona School District
 Bloomer School District
 Boyd-Edson-Delmar School District
 Cadott Community School District
 Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District
 Cornell School District
 DeForest Area School District
 East Troy Community School District
 Edgerton School District
 Horicon School District
 Lake Holcombe School District
 McFarland School District
 Menominee Indian School District
 Milwaukee Public Schools
 Monona Grove School District
 Mukwonago Area School District
 New Berlin School District
 Oshkosh Area School District
 Richmond School District
 School District of New Auburn
 Stanley-Boyd Area School District
 Stoughton Area School District
 Walworth Area School District

Private Schools

Lake Country Lutheran High School
 Martin Luther Lutheran High School
 Milwaukee Lutheran High School
 Mount Calvary Lutheran High School
 Wauwatosa Redeemer Lutheran School

Tribal Schools

Menominee Tribal School



Congratulations, Savanna!

We're proud to share that our very own Youth Ambassador, Savanna, was honored at the Wisconsin Substance Use Prevention Conference held September 10–11, 2025. The conference was hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Care and Treatment Services, in partnership with the Center for Innovative Transition, Education & Employment at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

Community Grant Support

Start Healing Now (SHN) extends our sincere thanks to the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation for awarding SHN a \$1,000 grant, presented by Tom Heffron. This generous support will help us install life-saving Overdose Aid Kits where members of the recovery community have requested them, with a focus on Horicon, Beaver Dam, Juneau, and Mayville.

Savanna was selected as the recipient of the Leaders of the Next Generation: Outstanding Youth Advocate for Substance Use Prevention award, recognizing her leadership and dedication to empowering young people and strengthening substance use prevention efforts in her community. We were thrilled to celebrate this achievement with Savanna while she was home on winter break. Her passion and leadership remind us that the future of prevention is bright.



START HEALING NOW

<https://starthealingnow.org/>

SAVE THE DATE!

WE ♥ YOU

Recovery in Our Community

March 4, 2026

9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Registration Opens January 4th!

University of Wisconsin Culver
Family Welcome Center



**BREAK THE SILENCE.
REDUCE STIGMA. SAVE LIVES.**

SHN BOARD

- Jessica Geschke, President
- Michael Beyer, Vice President
- Amy Schroeder, Treasurer
- Tim Kohler, Fundraising Chair
- Savanna Kawleski, Youth Ambassador
- Shari Klessig, Parent Ambassador/Secretary



PRESENTED BY:

ROGERS
Behavioral Health

MKE RECOVERY NIGHT BUCKS VS. CAVS

CO-HOSTS



THE PHOENIX
RISE | RECOVER | LIVE

MARCH 17, 2026

SOBER TAILGATE 5PM AT GATHER
TIP-OFF 7PM



THANK YOU TO
OUR SPONSORS!



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VIN BAKER RECOVERY
SAMAD'S HOUSE
MIRAMONT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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FIVE DOLLAR FRIDAYS

Donate \$5 today to support
overdose aid kits and life-saving resources.



Help us save lives from overdose:

VISIT starthealingnow.org/donate



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