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The Center for Self-Sufficiency Launches “Vow to Succeed” Campaign

*Organization challenges community to make a commitment
to relationship success and make it happen*

MILWAUKEE, WI - Fifty percent divorce rates, incidents of domestic and youth violence on the rise, teen pregnancy still an issue in many Milwaukee-area communities. What is the solution? Is there anything we can do now to begin to reverse these trends in the future? The Center for Self-Sufficiency thinks so as it launches “Vow to Succeed,” which is designed to raise public awareness of the mix of healthy relationship programs available to the community.

Vow to Succeed is a mix of healthy relationship classes and events as well as resources available at its website, www.vowtosucceed.org, all of which are geared toward personal growth and relationship success. Vow to Succeed was established to help youth, singles, unmarried pregnant women and expectant parents, and engaged and married couples find examples, tips and tools on how to have and be part of a healthy relationship and ultimately a healthy marriage.

“Marriage is on the decline, and single parent families are increasing. These trends are even more pronounced in minority and lower-income communities,” said Angela M. Turner, President and CEO

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of the Center for Self-Sufficiency. “Almost 78% of all children suffering from long-term poverty live in homes where their parents are divorced or never married. Vow to Succeed programs will work within the community to begin to reverse these trends by the taking necessary steps to first teach what a healthy relationship is, and then how to participate in a healthy union.”

In 2006, the federal government funded 136 Healthy Marriage Initiative grants, in part because of evidence that suggests that healthy relationships that lead to healthy marriages can address many of the concerns plaguing communities across the country. Former advisor to President Bill Clinton, William Galston, has said you need only do three things in this country to avoid poverty—finish high school, marry before having a child, and marry after the age of 20. Only 8% of the families who do this are poor; 79% of those who fail to do this are poor.

As the lead agency for the Milwaukee Marriage Partnership, the Center for Self-Sufficiency collaborates with community and faith-based organizations to offer healthy relationship classes that cover topics such as self-esteem and self-concept; communication; managing conflict; recognizing abusive relationships; infidelity, trust and forgiveness; and responsible behaviors that lead to healthy relationships.

Classes are offered in a variety of formats and lengths, including 8-hour workshops, weekend summits, one-day retreats, and evening classes spread over several weeks. New classes are starting in September and are free and open to the public.

For more information on Vow to Succeed, including program topics, upcoming events, community partner locations, and how to get involved visit www.vowtosucceed.org or call 414-332-0050.

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