

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **The Center for Self-Sufficiency has been Selected by two Prominent Milwaukee Organizations to Receive Funding to Provide Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Healthy Relationship Education**

*The Center provides direct teen pregnancy prevention and healthy relationship education programming under the umbrella of the "Vow to Succeed" program to youth to assist them in developing healthy life skills (attitudes and behaviors) and making choices that will have long-term positive effects on them, their family and society.*

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (Aug. 19, 2011) – For a second year in a row, the Center for Self-Sufficiency, Inc. (CFSS) has been selected by the **United Way of Greater Milwaukee** to provide teen pregnancy prevention for youth in the inner city of Milwaukee through its **Healthy Girls Initiative**. This initiative, which was established in 2001, was created with the intent to support evidence-based programs that respond to two key factors that have been recognized as detrimental to the success and well being of today's youth: teen pregnancy and sexual violence/victimization.

As a result of this initiative, the United Way of Greater Milwaukee is able to fund a total of 14 organizations for a total investment of \$614,000 for the 2011-2012 program year. All 14 programs combined are expected to serve over 3,000 youth in the City of Milwaukee. According to the Center for Self-Sufficiency's Healthy Girls Educator Angelique Sharpe, "Last year the program was very successful. Most teens acknowledged that they did not know there were so many potential problems involved with engaging in risky behavior. They are comforted and feel stronger when they know that prevention begins with making choices that they can live with, proud choices." Through leveraged resources, the Center for Self-Sufficiency will also provide healthy relationship education to youth through this program.

The United Way is not the only local organization to fund the Center for Self-Sufficiency to educate youth regarding teen pregnancy prevention skills. **Potawatomi Bingo Casino's Miracle on Canal Street Program** recently announced the Center as a winning charity for the 2011-2012 program year.

Miracle on Canal Street began in 1994, and since its inception it has raised over \$10.5 million for over 300 local charities. The purpose of Miracle on Canal Street is to help improve the lives of children by awarding nonprofit organizations who can ultimately assist children on their

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journeys to securing a promising future. The Center for Self-Sufficiency will use the funds received by the Miracle on Canal Street to provide teen pregnancy prevention and healthy relationship education to 100 youth. The value of combining the healthy relationship and teen pregnancy prevention education is that it allows youth to gain an increased understanding of how to prevent teen pregnancy, which has a high potential of leading to poverty; how to avoid sexually transmitted infections; and how to handle emotionally challenging situations without the use of violence. Additionally, this program teaches youth how to change patterns of behavior, how to form and sustain healthy relationships, and how to follow a success sequence that will provide them with goals, education, a career, and a family only after they have achieved their goals.

The Center for Self-Sufficiency looks forward to impacting the lives of Milwaukee's youth through both the United Way Healthy Girls and Potawatomi Bingo Casino's Miracle on Canal Street Programs. For more information about the Center for Self-Sufficiency's *VOW to Succeed* program, please visit [www.vowtosucceed.org](http://www.vowtosucceed.org).

Based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and founded in 1997, the Center for Self-Sufficiency (CFSS) is a nonprofit organization that promotes and facilitates the design, delivery, and growth of high-impact programs and partnerships that increase the self-sufficiency of individuals, families, organizations and communities. Under the leadership of President and CEO Angela Turner, CFSS partners with federal agencies, states, local governments and school districts, as well as community and faith-based organizations to develop effective service delivery models nationally in the areas of healthy relationships/marriage, teen pregnancy prevention, offender reentry, mentoring children of prisoners, green jobs and organizational capacity building.

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