

## **PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP RENEWAL AGREEMENT PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Proposed Partners:** Incarnate Word Foundation, Lutheran Foundation, Catholic Schools in St. Louis City, and Lutheran Schools in St. Louis City

**Investment Outcome 1a.** By June 2009, at least 3000 parents and caregivers consistently use newly acquired skills to provide positive discipline and structure and effectively manage problem behaviors.

**Partnership Target** By December 31, 2008, 11,250 parents of children in kindergarten, fourth, sixth, and ninth grades in Catholic elementary and secondary schools and Lutheran elementary schools in St. Louis City will increase their understanding of:

- issues and challenges facing children at the various stages of their development, and
- positive discipline strategies for effectively managing problem behaviors.

### **Purpose of Partnership:**

- Continue the expansion of the successful Elementary and Secondary School Coalition to include parents of all children grades K, 4, 6, and 9 attending 32 Catholic and Lutheran schools in the City of St. Louis.
- Ensure that parents receive the information they need to develop skills for dealing with issues and challenges facing children as they proceed through various growth and development transitions.

### **Summary:**

In 2002 a coalition of Catholic Secondary Schools introduced a program for all parents of ninth grade students whereby parenting information was provided on how parents could help their sons and daughters make good decisions relative to substance abuse. The program was developed and implemented by West County Psychological Associates, an organization that has been associated with the Catholic Schools for more than 15 years. Based on the overwhelming positive responses from parents who participated in the program, a coalition of Catholic Elementary Schools formed in order to provide the same program model to parents of six graders. The program content was revised for age appropriateness and included: characteristics and perceptions of adolescence, parent coping skills, discipline skills, and open communication. The school Principals determined that the program was necessary, appreciated by parents, and set up a climate for a better working relationship between schools and parents for dealing with negative behavior.

Due to the success of this program model, an expanded program that served parents of children in kindergarten and fourth grade was implemented during 2006-2007 for all St. Louis City Catholic and Lutheran elementary schools and six Catholic secondary schools, a total of 32 schools. Funding for the expansion was provided by the St. Louis Mental Health Board, Incarnate Word Foundation, Lutheran Foundation, and the Catholic and Lutheran Schools. The program content was adapted for age appropriateness. The central office of the Catholic and Lutheran schools

provided the coordination, guidance and oversight for the program; principals directed the implementation and evaluation.

**Financial Commitments:**

The total Mental Health Board budget would not exceed \$25,000. Incarnate Word Foundation will provide a \$10,000 match, Lutheran Foundation will provide a \$5,000 match, and in-kind expenses valued at \$10,000 will be provided by the Catholic and Lutheran schools for a total budget of \$50,000. The *Today and Tomorrow Foundation*, a third party non-profit organization that provides scholarships to students attending Catholic and Lutheran schools, will receive and distribute the funds from this partnership

**Duration:**

The proposed duration of the renewed partnership will be 1 year and 6 months from the date of the signed Memorandum of Agreement.