



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Local Teens Benefit from National Prevention Program

Ft. Myers, Fla. (October 29, 2014) – Wyman Center certifies Children’s Network of Southwest Florida as a National Replication Partner of the evidence-based Teen Outreach Program, (TOP®) aimed to increase educational success, youth development and teen pregnancy prevention. The partnership between Wyman Center and Children’s Network allows hundreds of teens in Southwest Florida to develop healthy behaviors, life skills and a sense of purpose.

Children’s Network of Southwest Florida partners with 22 agencies throughout Southwest Florida to deliver this program in a community setting. Wyman Center Sr. Vice President Allison Williams praises the program stating, “We have observed the quality of your network programs first-hand. We recognize the outstanding efforts of your team and congratulate you on this success.” Achieving certification is a rigorous process and requires the partner to demonstrate the highest quality indicators and fidelity measures to the evidence based model of practice.

The collaboration of TOP® partner agencies was selected to receive the “Teaming up for Change” award presented at the Statewide Child Welfare Dependency Summit in September of 2014. This distinction validates the commitment of the strong network of partners created to positively influence the lives of local teens.

The success of the program is recognized and supported through allocations of funding from the State Legislature, who appropriated \$450,000. Such a solid appropriation was possible due to the legislative champions Senator Benacquisto, Senator Grimsley and Representative Hudson. Lee County also recognizes the program by means of the “Partnering for Results” grant in the amount of \$147,522. Children’s Network is a finalist for the UNITE award, which recognizes collaboration. These generous contributions have allowed the program to expand tremendously for the 2014-2015 program year. For more information on TOP® please contact the Children’s Network at 239-226-1524.