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LOCAL NONPROFIT TO IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY PROJECT WITH SUPPORT FROM LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

LAKE COUNTY, IL (January 29, 2009) — Community Resources for Education & Wellness, Inc. (CREW) has announced that with recent funding from The Lake County Community Foundation, it will be able to implement a new case management solution that will innovate and improve the delivery and results of its services to residents in Zion and Lake County.

CREW's mission, *Developing Resources, Developing Citizens, Developing Community*, began to take shape with the creation of Partners for an Enriched Community (PEC). The network built by the front line social service workers in the Zion-Benton Community works together to create efficiencies in service delivery. Within a short time of the implementation of PEC, staff began to see changes as a result of the co-location of organizations and comprehensive tracking of participants served. Because of its success, other organizations in the county began expressing interest in joining the PEC program.

PEC is entering a new phase of development and has partnered with Community Collaboration Inc, (CCI) whose focus is to help municipalities and organizations in the human service sector collaborate through an integrated case management system. This application allows each agency in PEC to create an individualized comprehensive plan, established by the client and human service workers, that can be shared with partner organizations allowing for a more comprehensive and holistic service delivery method for each individual that visits PEC.

The case management application, MPOWR, is provided and implemented by Community Collaboration, Inc. (CCI), a nonprofit organization based in Rockford, Ill. CCI works with city and county governments, municipalities, human service agencies and faith-based organizations to help establish a collaborative platform for the delivery of human services. Their methodology allows these community groups to share information and resources to holistically work with individuals who receive their services. With the case management software, the organizations are able to share what services individuals receive and the programs they graduate from. CREW and the organizations it has partnered with will be able to quantify and measure results of their programs, a crucial component in applying for grants and public funding.

This innovative approach to human services has been shown to benefit communities by strengthening the coordination of services to break the cycle of dependency and developing communitywide goals to save public tax dollars and create wealth within the community. With CCI's support, the program implemented through CREW will enhance the delivery of human services, empowering providers to work with the residents of Zion and Benton Townships to overcome barriers and take sensible steps to attain their goals.

Through funding and support from The Lake County Community Foundation, CREW will implement the collaboration project with 25 voluntary participants during a one-year period. Participants will be individuals who seek services from Zion-Benton Townships, CREW, Inc., LOVE INC and the Zion-Benton Workforce Development Training Center. Participants must give permission for their information to be shared in the MPOWR application and are able to customize what details are disclosed.

PEC will evaluate the implementation and results of the collaborative services and utilize reports from the MPOWR application to measure the program outcomes. This will also provide the CCI and PEC partners with an opportunity to develop a replication manual that can be utilized by other community organizations interested in implementing a collaborative social services model that delivers an efficient, systematic approach to assisting residents in need.

The Lake County Community Foundation, an affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust, is the vehicle that builds strategic alliances and educates donors about the challenges in the county, helping develop simple, powerful and personal approaches to giving throughout Lake County. Since 2004, the foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$1 million to 55 Lake County not-for-profit organizations. Learn more at www.lakecountycf.org.

About Community Collaboration, Inc.

Founded in 2006, CCI™ is an Illinois non-profit corporation with the mission to design, develop, implement, support and replicate innovative and collaborative community case management solutions, empowering human service providers to help individuals reach their goals and establishing communities as models of innovation and collaboration.

Community Collaboration Inc. enables the human service delivery sector to safely share information in order to eliminate isolation and increase effectiveness, while protecting privacy. CCI's solutions include comprehensive case management, sophisticated tools for collaboration and specialized consulting services. Learn more at www.cciunites.org.

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