

For Immediate Release

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Community Partnership Receives Funding

Wyoming Health Initiative (WHI) and Southwest Wyoming Recovery Access Program (SW-WRAP) were recently awarded a grant for \$7,500 from the Wyoming Women's Foundation to support the Abundant Living Program.

According to the grant proposal, this money will provide "programming support for long-term economic self-sufficiency for pregnant, at-risk teens and young adults, male and female. The existing teen services and support group will be expanded to include clients living in Sweetwater County and rural areas, as well as those who are no longer in school." Services include free pregnancy testing, birth control and education regarding sexually transmitted diseases, assistance with applying for pre- and post-natal services, and a teen support group. Through its collaboration, the grant will also enable WHI & SW-WRAP to expand its teen support group to include females up to age 25, and will help fund a breakfast program at Independence High School in Rock Springs and Expedition Academy High School in Green River.

"This generous funding will allow SW-WRAP and WHI to expand their capacity and services to address life skills, education, financial management and budgeting, job counseling and career development, personal goal setting and life time planning, independent living, and individual services coordination," said Cathie Hughes, Executive Director of SW-WRAP.

The grant proposal states "there are currently 128 pregnant teens in Sweetwater County plus an additional 197 teens that have received documented pregnancy testing this year. There is currently a 50% school drop-out rate among pregnant teens and no coordinated, collaborative program exists to address the need for employment counseling, training, education and basic life-skills for pregnant and at-risk teens and young adults."

Suzanne Zutter, United Way Executive Director stated "one of United Way's missions is to invest in children and youth to help them become healthy and productive citizens. United Way has set a goal to decrease teen parenthood by five percent per year for five years."

Kathy Tacke, United Way Director of Community Impact, guided WHI and SW-WRAP to form this collaboration and referred them to this grant opportunity. "When programs and agencies

work together for the common good, great things can happen. The partnership between WHI and SW-WRAP is a perfect example of how forming collaborations can better meet the needs of the community by sharing resources and pooling funds," said Tacke.

WHI provides assistance to pregnant women who are at risk in order that they may have a healthy baby. "When working with our teens we promote planning for pregnancy, healthy pregnancies and knowledgeable parenting," said WHI Executive Director Kolbi Williams.

SW-WRAP provides community-based, collaborative, continuum of care programs that are family-centered. They use traditional and non-traditional recovery support and wrap-around services that treat the entire family system. The organization's focus is to provide education, skills and activities that promote and empower individuals and families to live a healthy, stable, sustainable and rewarding lifestyle.

For more information on the Abundant Living Program and other programs offered through SW-WRAP and WHI, please call 307-875-2196 or send an e-mail to swwrap@q.com. The Wyoming Women's Foundation is a charitable organization that supports economic self-sufficiency and access to opportunities for women and girls in Wyoming by raising funds, making grants, advocating for change and providing leadership. For information call 307-721-8300 or visit the Wyoming Women's Foundation website at www.wywf.org.

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Picture: The Wyoming Women's Foundation awarded a grant for \$7,500 to Wyoming Health Initiative and Southwest Wyoming Recovery Access Program to support the Abundant Living Program. Pictured United Way Director of Community Impact Kathy Tacke, SW-WRAP Founder & Executive Director Cathie Hughes, WHI Executive Director Kolbi Williams, WHI Programs Coordinator Melissa Searle and United Way Executive Director Suzanne Zutter.