

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Higher Ground receives monetary gift to directly benefit local adolescents

Wichita, Kan. – Higher Ground is proud to announce the recent monetary donation received from Cargill Cares Wichita Council, and matching donation from Cargill, Corporate. The \$20,000 gift represents collaborative support, which will directly contribute to Higher Ground’s adolescent substance education program, called Challenge by Choice.

“At Higher Ground every donation directly benefits this community,” Higher Ground Executive Director/CEO Mary San Martin said. “We are very grateful for the donation from Cargill Cares Wichita and the Cargill Corporation, as it will directly benefit the substance education programs for youth in Wichita and surrounding communities.”

Higher Ground’s Challenge by Choice Program - and its use in supporting area youth to successfully maintain engagement in school, culminating in high school graduation - seems to dovetail with Cargill’s focus on innovative programs that improve academic achievement, develop logic and thinking skills, promote leadership development and/or increase access to education for socio-economically disadvantaged children.. It is our hope that, by concentrating joint efforts at the middle and high school levels of Wichita schools, Higher Ground and Cargill may help children complete their education and live happier, more productive lives.

Higher Ground's CHALLENGE BY CHOICE PROGRAM

HOW SERVICES ADDRESS NEEDS OF YOUTH – The purpose of CBC is to empower participants to discover their own healthy answers and making positive choices as they encounter the difficult decisions that young people are faced with everyday. Then the youth are able to apply the insights they learn to increase their success at school, home, and/or work.

Participation in the CBC Program helps youth build their “Developmental Assets.” These are resources which increase in value and which youth can draw upon again and again. They help young people make wise decisions, choose positive paths, and grow up competent, caring and responsible. These assets give young people the tools to overcome circumstances and search, instead, for opportunities. In the last decades, there has been less development of these assets in young people in general, as a result of divorce, the lack of time parents have for their children because of work schedules, the increases in school census and substance use/abuse of both

youth and parents. Youth have had less access to adult mentors, who historically helped them develop these assets.

The Cargill Cares / Cargill Corporation gift is a direct reflection of their commitment to youth and education in the community and areas surrounding Wichita, Kansas.

About Cargill Cares Wichita Council:

Cargill Cares Wichita aims to accomplish its goal of leading corporate citizenship by managing monetary and in kind grants and coordinating volunteer opportunities for Cargill employees. Cargill Cares Wichita is made up of the following Wichita businesses: Cargill Dressings, Sauces & Oils; Cargill Grain & Oilseed Supply Chain; Horizon Milling and Cargill Meat Solutions.

About Higher Ground (A Tiyospaye Program):

Higher Ground is the only program of its kind in the state of Kansas providing a dynamic out-patient substance abuse treatment program focusing on multi-cultural adolescents, adults, families and Spanish-speaking members of our community. Higher Ground provides unique prevention and intervention services, incorporating nature and adventure-based, active learning to help clients overcome inner barriers, such as self-doubt and personal fears. With a multi-cultural, bilingual staff, experienced in adolescent and adult treatment, Higher Ground is capable of giving youth and family support, in both Spanish and English. Higher Grounds strives to empower individuals to experience his or her own ability to make responsible decisions, choose healthy behaviors, and contribute to healthy communities.

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