



FREEPORT WEST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Local youth build awareness about violence
through youth written and acted performance**

SAINT PAUL – (July 14th, 2010) – Freeport West’s Saint Paul Youth Center announced today that the summer performance of Create-A-Play will be held on August 25th, 2010 at SteppingStone Theatre in Saint Paul. The performance will feature approximately 20 youth ages 13 to 21 who have participated in the Freeport Domestic Violence program, and want to share what they have learned with their peers and the community. In addition to a play, youth will perform a variety of original artistic pieces, including a rap, song and dance.

The Create-A-Play performance is the culmination of the two month summer program which includes a tour of a battered women’s shelter, a presentation from the Saint Paul Police Department’s Domestic Violence Unit, a former domestic violence victim speaker and workshops with local artists Terrell Woods a.k.a. Carnage The Executioner and Alan Mure of the Immortal Dance Team. The Domestic Violence program focuses on developing the skills of its participants, primarily African American youth, so they may act as peer educators on the topics of prevention and intervention of violence. Each participant learns to develop a safety plan, a list of resources and advocates they may turn to if they are ever in an abusive situation. The program which started in June of 2009 and is in its sixth cycle, has engaged over 180 youth. With each cycle, new faces join the program, but a number of young faces youth or participants remain constant.

The free performance, which could not occur without Freeport's partnership with SteppingStone, will be held at the theatre, located at 55 Victoria Street in Saint Paul, at 7:00pm, with doors opening at 6:30pm. Following the performance, a dialogue will take place, allowing audience members to participate and deconstruct the performance and process with youth.

About Freeport West

In 1970, Freeport West began as a shelter for runaway and homeless youth. Over the past 40 years our non-profit has grown to offer a full range of services and programs to help youth and young families experiencing poverty, oppression, institutionalization and violence receive adequate resources and ample opportunities. Today, with locations in Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Freeport serves approximately 2,700 youth annually, providing guidance and education around housing, education, job readiness, health and wellness, and leadership development. For more information on Freeport West and the programs and services we provide please call 612.252.2738 or visit our website at www.freeportwest.org.

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