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FamilySafetyandHealing.org

March 3, 2015

Community Connectors Grant Committee

Dear Committee,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of The Center for Family Safety and Healing in support of the Community Connectors grant application submitted by All THAT - Teens Hopeful About Tomorrow. The Center for Family Safety and Healing is committed to breaking the cycle of family violence, including child abuse and neglect, teen dating abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse.

Every year, millions of children are exposed to family violence or are involved in unhealthy dating relationships. Family violence incidents affect every person within a home and can have long-lasting negative effects on a child's emotional well-being, as well as social and academic functioning. The Center for Family Safety and Healing offers a variety of customized, age-appropriate programs for the students and staff of school districts and youth serving organizations to help them understand the importance of developing healthy relationships. By partnering with All THAT - Teens Hopeful About Tomorrow, we can facilitate the *Safe Dates* program, developed by Hazelden to prevent teen dating abuse.

The *Safe Dates* program is the only evidence-based program that addresses teen dating abuse. The engaging and interactive curriculum seeks to equip students with the skills to develop healthy dating relationships, including positive communication, anger management, and conflict resolution. The teens who participated in *Safe Dates* displayed less acceptance of dating violence, stronger communication/anger management skills, less gender stereotyping, and greater awareness of community services. In addition, at the one-year follow-up, participants in the treatment group showed 12% lower rates of reported peer violence victimization, 23% lower rates of reported peer violence perpetration among a subsample of minority students, and 31% lower odds of carrying a weapon to school.

We look forward to partnering with All THAT to promote the positive relationship skills necessary for positive conflict resolution as well as resiliency and fully support the funding they are requesting in order to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Days, MBA
President