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GIRLS IN ACTION RECEIVES W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION GRANT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Minneapolis, MN - February 7, 2008 - In response to escalating violence and a significant decrease in academic engagement among female students, **Girls in Action™** was founded in June 2005 and was implemented at its first site in the fall of 2005 at North Community High School, a large urban public school in Minneapolis. The project founded and directed by Dr. Verna Cornelia Price was recently awarded a three year grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan to support the overall growth and national expansion of the project.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 to, "help people help themselves". Specifically, the organization supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society.

Girls in Action™ provides female youth with the skills needed to discover who they are, why they are important, what they have to offer, and how to build and maintain positive relationships. The project covers four core curriculum components: personal power, leadership, career coaching and service-learning. The project extends throughout the academic year and is integrated into the regular school day. Project Manager, Roslyn Harmon explained, "our urban high school girls need to know that they are powerful and important and that they have an alternative to life on the streets. To be successful, they need to have excellent communication skills, strong positive role-models, a safe environment, and a connection to the community." Currently **Girls in Action™** works with four Minneapolis Public High Schools (North, Roosevelt, Henry, and Edison) and recently expanded nationally to Inkster Public High School in the Detroit, MI area.

The **Girls in Action™** Project's continued success has shown a 67% increase in academic engagement and a 63% decrease in suspension rates in its second year. In addition, the phase two participants who were involved in the program since its inception have maintained higher Grade Point Averages and even more consistent attendance records than the phase one participants who enrolled in the project during its second year.

The positive impact that **Girls in Action™** has had in the past three years has resulted in requests from numerous high schools in and out of Minnesota as a core strategy to empower their female students to achieve success in school and life. With the support of the W.K. Kellogg Grant, **Girls in Action™** plans to expand both locally and nationally.

For greatest impact, the Foundation targets its grants toward specific areas, including health; food systems and rural development; youth and education; and philanthropy and volunteerism. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

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