Grant to Address Human Trafficking with PWCS Youth

Prince William County Public Schools is the recipient of a grant from the Potomac Health Foundation to support a project that will mitigate serious health issues associated with domestic human trafficking of youth.

Three approaches are planned:

* **Awareness** to increase knowledge of the problem by students, parents, teachers, and the general public and warn those at risk of trafficking’s scope, severity, and potential dangers;

* **Prevention** through activities for students, parents, and teachers that will prohibit those most vulnerable from becoming faceless victims; and

* **Restoration**, providing support—including trauma-informed services—for victims of sexual exploitation so they may find healing

- Awareness and prevention activities target 4,000 social workers, counselors, psychologists and school nurses and 3,000 ninth graders in six high schools in the Eastern portion of the county, the foundation’s service area. Restoration activities will provide a continuum of services to youth who have been trafficked, are at risk of being trafficked, or at risk of gang involvement.

- A lesson will be taught through Family Life Education classes. A school schedule regarding the days and times of these lessons will be sent to the Prince William Police Department.

- Partners in the project include the county’s Sexual Assault Victims Advocacy Service (SAVAS); the Gang Prevention and Intervention Health Support Services project at the Greater Prince William Community Health Center; and Prince William County Department of Social Services.

- The project includes funding for a large public relations campaign in collaboration with Media Production Services with the development of a public service announcement, a parent video and billboard design.

**Contact information:**

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