



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Milwaukee's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative gaining international attention**  
*Citywide effort led by United Way of Greater Milwaukee to be featured in  
South African documentary*

(March 7, 2012 – Milwaukee, WI) Milwaukee's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative, led by United Way of Greater Milwaukee, will be welcoming a documentary film crew to Milwaukee this week from Soweto, South Africa to highlight the success of Milwaukee's collaborative effort to reduce teen birthrates in the city.

The crew from Soweto TV is hoping to learn from the success of Milwaukee's model to reduce teen pregnancy as South Africa works to reduce the staggering rate of teen births in that country. According to a recent South African report, the rate of pregnancies for teens ages 15 to 19 in South Africa in 2009 was 73 per 1,000 live births, one of the highest rates among developing countries. Milwaukee's teen birthrate that year among 15 to 17 year olds was 41.3 per 1,000 live births. In 2011, the Milwaukee teen birthrate once again dropped to 33.4 per 1,000 live births.

"Milwaukee has made incredible progress in reducing the teen birthrate," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "We are proud of what our accomplishments mean for the future of Milwaukee teens, and are eager to share our model with others."

Working in conjunction with the U.S. Department of State's TV Cooperative Production program, which funds and facilitates news documentaries and features filmed in the U.S. by foreign journalists, Soweto TV will be conducting interviews with key partners in Milwaukee's collaborative Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative and will be visiting community agencies involved in the work as well as Milwaukee Public Schools.

"Teen pregnancy is a global concern that we have been battling in our own city," said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker. "Reducing teen pregnancy both at home and around the world results in improved health and more opportunities for teens to meet their life goals."

(Continued)



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“We’re so proud that our community’s unique all-hands-on-deck approach is working and that communities not just here in the United States, but in other countries, want to learn more about the collaborative process that has helped us move the needle on this critical issue,” said Mary Lou Young, President and CEO of United Way of Greater Milwaukee. “We are thrilled to host the crew from South Africa and share our successful model with them.”

Milwaukee’s teen birth rate is currently at a historically low level. City of Milwaukee health officials say the current trend indicates that Milwaukee should be on track to reduce the teen birth rate by 46% by 2015, a goal set by Mayor Tom Barrett with the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, the City of Milwaukee Health Department, and the Center for Urban Population Health in 2008.

**Photo /Interview Opportunities:**

The crew from Soweto TV will be available the afternoon of Friday, March 8. Please contact Sarah DeRoo (contact information above) for more information.

Nicole Angresano, Vice President, Community Impact, United Way of Greater Milwaukee

Bevan K. Baker, Commissioner of Health, City of Milwaukee Health Department

**About United Way of Greater Milwaukee:** *United Way of Greater Milwaukee advances the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our focus is on education, income and health – the building blocks for a good quality of life. Learn more about our community-changing strategies and goals at:*

<http://www.unitedwaymilwaukee.org/Newsroom.htm>

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<http://twitter.com/UnitedWayMilw>

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**About City of Milwaukee Health Department:** *For 145 years, the City of Milwaukee Health Department has worked to improve and protect the health of individuals, families and the community through bold leadership, effective partnerships and innovation in thinking and practice. Learn more at [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health).*

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