



For Immediate Release

## Freeport West Launching New Housing Initiative Supporting Teen Mothers

**Saint Paul, MN (January 11, 2010)** – Freeport West is a 39-year-old nonprofit providing services to at-risk, runaway and homeless youth. Freeport West is excited to announce its latest Saint Paul venture. Along with the Freeport Saint Paul Youth Center we will now offer secured housing in Saint Paul. The house dedicated to assisting parenting youth and those impacted by domestic violence is made possible by the City of Saint Paul and the United Way.

The house is dedicated to helping youth who are identified as homeless, parenting between the ages of 16-21, victims of domestic violence and currently reside in Saint Paul. This new initiative serves to help parenting youth eliminate homelessness and prepare for permanent housing, achieve self-sufficiency, promote independence while maintaining a sense of safety, prepare youth for tenancy rights and responsibilities, and assist in the development and capability to nurture and care for their children.

Freeport West is a multifaceted, community-based human services organization. We offer a wide range of hands-on assistance, (e.g. housing, life skills education, counseling, in-home parenting training, assessment, advocacy) as well as collaboration for access to additional services. All of our focus and efforts are on attaining positive outcomes for youth (and families), and strengthening (inherent) community supports which will sustain their efforts. Freeport also administrates and coordinates the StreetWorks program, founded in 1994, which brings together 12 local youth-serving agencies to provide coordinated street-based outreach to runaway and homeless youth ages 12-21. In 2008, Freeport expanded its services to a Saint Paul site to better serve the at-risk African American youth that were not finding or using the services they needed. We identified Ward 1 in the Summit/University neighborhood and opened the Freeport Saint Paul Youth Center.

For more information on Freeport West or the programs and services it provides please call 612.824.3040 or visit [www.freeportwest.org](http://www.freeportwest.org).

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