



From Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin

For immediate release: Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2016

Contact: Dan Flannery
Senior Vice President-Engagement
Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin
1800 Appleton Road
Menasha, WI 54952
920-968-6854
dfannery@goodwillncw.org

Voices of Men joins Goodwill as 30th program

MENASHA — Voices of Men has become a program of Goodwill NCW, marking Goodwill's 30th program in its 35-county region.

Voices of Men engages boys and men in work to help end sexual assault and domestic violence in the Fox Valley and aims to change the perception that domestic violence and sexual assault are women's issues by getting people thinking about these as men's or human issues since about 90% of perpetrators are men.

"A large part of Voices of Men's work is bringing new allies to the table to help end sexual assault and domestic violence in our communities, whether that's community leaders attending our annual Breakfast Program, high school boys starting Voices of Men chapters in their schools or community organizations joining this important work," said Shannon Kenevan, Voices of Men community engagement leader. "Goodwill NCW's mission of Elevating People, Transforming Communities aligns seamlessly with our work. Voices of Men is elevating boys and men in our community by teaching healthy manhood, and we are transforming communities by engaging more people in sexual assault and domestic violence prevention."

Voices of Men was founded in 2007 in the Fox Valley when the region's four domestic violence/sexual assault agencies (Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs, Reach Counseling, and Sexual Assault Crisis Center) gathered men for a "Men's Summit" after Harbor House brought in a nationally recognized speaker, Ben Atherton-Zeman, whose message focused on involving men and boys in the work of ending sexual assault and domestic violence.

Inspired by the summit, a group of 40 men wanted to do more. The effort received a boost through a 2008 Community Health Action Team plunge on domestic violence. Following the plunge, a committee was formed to plan an initiative starting in 2010, which culminated in a community breakfast that drew more than 400 men who wanted to be part of the solution. This breakfast has become an annual event —

attracting 1,100 people in 2015 — to learn about everyday behaviors that either foster a culture that enables violence and sexism, or instead elevate women and girls and create a culture of safety and dignity.

Voices of Men's next community breakfast is Nov. 2 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in downtown Appleton and will feature Atherton-Zeman as keynote speaker. This year's community breakfast also will feature free livestreaming on Voices of Men's recently launched website: www.voicesofmen.com. Registration information on the breakfast is available on the website.

There are now seven additional school chapters of Voices of Men in the Fox Valley, including at Appleton North High School and Lawrence University.

United Way Fox Cities formally served as Voices of Men fiscal agent.

Voices of Men will continue to partner with and follow the leadership of the four founding domestic violence/sexual assault agencies.

For more on Voices of Men, visit voicesofmen.com. You can reach Shannon Kenevan at skenevan@goodwillncw.org.

About Goodwill NCW: Goodwill NCW is a not-for-profit human services organization headquartered in Menasha, serving more than 63,000 people each year through 29 programs and services, plus dozens of sponsorships and community partnerships across 35 counties in north central Wisconsin. The organization includes 26 retail stores and training centers in communities from Manitowoc to La Crosse, and as far north as Rice Lake and Rhinelander, as well as a unique shopping experience at its Appleton outlet store. It offers eight Donation Express sites and 45 convenient donation bins throughout the Fox Cities and surrounding communities. Goodwill NCW is a member of Goodwill Industries International and Rehabilitation for Wisconsin. Visit the website at www.goodwillncw.org.