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Ways to Work® Honors Stark County Agency with 2011 Performance Award at the 13th Annual Ways to Work Institute

Trillium Family Solutions in Canton Recognized for Successfully Implementing the Ways to Work Loan Program, Helping More Families in Need Achieve Financial Stability

CANTON and MILWAUKEE — Oct. 17, 2011 — Ways to Work®, Inc., a Community Development Financial Institution helping credit-challenged families achieve increased self-sufficiency, today announced its 2011 Performance Award winners. Trillium Family Solutions was among the top 13 sites in Ways to Work's national network of loan offices recognized for successfully implementing the Ways to Work program in their community. Representatives from Trillium Family Solutions were honored during a ceremony held on Sept. 22, at the 13th Annual Ways to Work Institute in Milwaukee.

Ways to Work provides low-income families with challenging credit histories access to small, low-interest loans — the vast majority of which are used to purchase or repair a used car. With the funds in place to secure stable transportation and other essentials for holding down a job and moving forward, Ways to Work has helped more than 30,000 families move toward financial stability and an improved quality of life.

2011 Performance Award winners have demonstrated proven success reaching and assisting a large number of low-income families in their communities, while managing a quality portfolio. In recognition of their outstanding performance, Trillium Family Solutions was named the recipient of both the Premier Program Award and Most Improved Program Award, including grants totaling \$8,500 from Ways to Work.

“Jumping in the car to head to work in the morning is something that many of us take for granted, but for our nation's hard working families it can mean the difference between living a life of mounting struggles and one that's full of possibility,” said Jeff Faulkner, president, Ways to Work. “For struggling families, a car is crucial to establishing a stable work history and, thus, financial security. Without access to affordable car loans, these families can fall victim to predatory lenders.”

Criteria for Trillium Family Solutions Premier Program Award include being a loan office generating over 40 loans between September 2010 and August 2011 and carrying a quality portfolio that is in compliance with Ways to Work Benchmarks.

Criteria for Trillium Family Solutions Most Improved Program Award include being a loan office with successful program improvement strategies, techniques and results.



Trillium Family Solutions Honored with 2011 Performance Award, Continued

“Ways to Work is a program we believe in and one that is filling a vital need in our community,” said Robin Seemann, Director of Economics, Education and Empowerment Program at Trillium Family Solutions. “For many families, owning a car is the gateway to better, higher paying jobs, access to better child care options, and so much more. Helping families achieve their dreams and become self-sufficient is rewarding on so many levels – it also helps our communities grow stronger and closer. This award is an honor and we thank Ways to Work for acknowledging our work.”

All Ways to Work loan offices are housed and operated by nonprofit human service agencies that are members of the Alliance for Children and Families. Alliance members provide a vast array of services that strengthen families and communities. Ways to Work has a network of 46 loan offices nationwide. A list of all Alliance for Children and Families member agencies hosting Ways to Work loan offices can be found at www.waystowork.org.

About Ways to Work

Ways to Work is a unique Community Development Financial Institution based in Milwaukee. Through a network of loan offices across the country, Ways to Work provides financial education and small, short-term, low-interest loans to working families with challenging credit histories. Most clients use their loan to purchase a reliable used vehicle to enhance their ability to remain engaged in the workforce and better manage their lives. The program provides an alternative to predatory lending for people with a demonstrated commitment to achieving increased self-sufficiency and who are intent on pursuing a higher degree of success in mainstream financial markets. For more information, please visit www.WaystoWork.org.

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