



www.teenaa.org
Contact: Kathy McCormick, Branch Manager
mccormickkathy@sbcglobal.net



The \$100,000 Mass Mutual Impact Grant has created a partnership of hope for today's generation within the MPOWRD Leadership and Prevention Program for youth!

Springfield, Mass. (Feb. 15-16) – Teen Addiction Anonymous has been awarded a \$100,000 Mutual Impact grant by Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) through the company's Mutual Impact community investment program. These funds will subsidize outreach to high schools within the community to initiate the MPOWRD (Empowered) Leadership and Prevention Program for Youth. Mutual Impact is funded by MassMutual employees through the company's annual employee giving program and matched by the MassMutual Foundation, a dedicated corporate foundation established by MassMutual.

This is the first year that Teen Addiction Anonymous has received a Mutual Impact grant. The funding will create an educational program at six high schools where counselors will be trained to initiate teen groups. Youth will be taught skills in communication, leadership, outreach, and personal empowerment. Teens will be given a structured curriculum that was developed by a teen initiative where they will have the opportunity to run a peer to peer support network. This evidence-based program has given hope to communities throughout the nation.

"Teen Addiction Anonymous is honored to bring the MPOWRD program to high school teens within Hampden County! The dedication of Mass Mutual's employee commitment to youth in their community is an outstanding model that sets a precedent on a national basis. Seven high schools will be impacted as teens develop skills, building positive relationships as they work together to discuss life challenges and solutions."

The seven high schools which have been awarded scholarship funds to train for facilitating the MPOWRD program are: The High School of Commerce, The Children's Study Home, Pioneer Valley Christian School, Longmeadow HS, Chicopee HE, Agawam HS, and Hampden Charter School of Science. The leadership and insight of these administrators has set a precedent for other high schools.

The Mutual Impact program is completely driven by MassMutual employees. Employees decide which causes and nonprofit organizations receive funding, make donations which are matched dollar-for-dollar by the MassMutual Foundation to fund grants, and volunteer in support of the organizations they select. Mass Mutual employees are helping to create outreach to high schools in behalf of the MPOWRD program, creating community awareness about this opportunity.

Selected nonprofits have demonstrated excellence in their organization, volunteer opportunities, and community impact.

"Corporate responsibility and community involvement are part of our DNA and we take great pride in helping people in the communities where we live and work secure a better future," said Dennis Duquette, head of community responsibility with MassMutual and president of the MassMutual Foundation Board of Directors. "Teen Addiction Anonymous tirelessly devotes time and energy in support of teens and

families in our local community, and we are pleased to support them through the Mutual Impact program.”

Jennifer Klock Rossmiller, a Mass Mutual staff member, has already seen the results of the MPOWRD outreach this year. "I had a chance encounter with a student from Commerce HS who is involved in the MPOWRD program. She said that she is grateful that this opportunity came into her life and said that it is helping her to cope with some pretty major issues. I was so humbled to hear what she had to say about the impact the program is having on her life."

Mass Mutual employees share in this victory. Their commitment is changing lives and giving hope to our youth at this very moment. Without their passion for positive support directed to teens in their community, this opportunity would not be available to youth. We hope to see the MPOWRD program continue to grow and gain momentum within this community.

Mutual Impact grants were awarded to 21 nonprofit organizations for programs that fit within specific cause areas, including early grade reading proficiency, food insecurity, violence prevention, family economic self-sufficiency, returning veterans, successful advancement in school, child hunger, and education.

For more information about MassMutual’s community responsibility efforts and for a full list of this year’s Mutual Impact grantees, visit www.massmutual.com.

###

About MassMutual

MassMutual is a leading mutual life insurance company that is run for the benefit of its members and participating policyowners. MassMutual offers a wide range of financial products and services, including life insurance, disability income insurance, long term care insurance, annuities, retirement plans and other employee benefits. For more information, visit www.massmutual.com.

About the MassMutual Foundation

The MassMutual Foundation, a dedicated corporate foundation established by MassMutual, strives to broaden economic opportunity for America’s youth and their families by investing in financial education across the United States and economic development, academic achievement, and workforce development locally. The Foundation is a reflection of MassMutual’s longstanding dedication to corporate citizenship and its unwavering commitment to the communities in which the company conducts business. To learn more, visit www.massmutual.com/responsibility.