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MoneyW!SE Program Debuts in Staten Island

NEW YORK, N.Y. – Working in Support of Education (w!se) is pleased to announce the launch of its MoneyW!SE program for survivors of domestic violence in Staten Island on April 13th, 2015. The program is being offered to Staten Island Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) clients and is hosted off-site and will be offered at the New York City Family Justice Center, Staten Island once it opens.

Through this groundbreaking initiative, w!se offers 12-week courses on personal finance to domestic violence survivors and at the end of each course, administers w!se's Financial Literacy Certification Test; clients passing the Test become Certified Financially Literate, earning w!se's CFL™. Classes meet once a week in the evening for two hours. Food, child care, and the opportunity for financial counseling are provided. The program is made possible through the generous support and sponsorship of the Allstate Foundation.

In Staten Island and throughout New York City, the program is delivered in partnership with the New York City Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, the Financial Planning Association of New York (FPANY) and Sanctuary for Families.

"We are truly excited about launching our MoneyW!SE program in Staten Island. We greatly appreciate Allstate's sponsorship and the important contributions from our partners that are making it possible," said Phyllis Frankfort Perillo, w!se President and CEO. "This program will result in survivors of domestic violence having the knowledge and skills needed for a life of financial well-being," she added.

With the addition of Staten Island, the program is now offered at the Family Justice Centers in all five New York City boroughs as well as in Salt Lake City, UT, San Diego, CA, Philadelphia, PA and New Orleans, LA.

"We are so proud to partner with w!se and help support the launch of MoneyW!SE on Staten Island," said Kayla Taylor, The Allstate Foundation. "Having representation in all five boroughs is an incredible accomplishment and provides survivors of domestic violence in New York direct access to gain the financial skills and resources they need to get safe, stay safe and thrive."

"Financial dependence is often a key impediment to leaving an abusive relationship," said Commissioner Rosemonde Pierre-Louis of the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. "The MoneyW!SE program teaches critical skills and provides essential tools for victims of domestic violence to obtain economic empowerment and independence. I applaud David Anderson and the W!SE staff for bringing this invaluable program to our clients on Staten Island and look forward to continuing to work together through this initiative."

About w!se

Working In Support of Education (w!se) is a New York based educational 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to providing educational support services nationwide, building financial literacy and readiness for college and careers. w!se serves urban secondary school students in low-to-moderate-income areas. Extensive partnerships with schools and the private sector and a reputation for sustainable programs with measurable results have made w!se a leader in education.

About The Allstate Foundation

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The Allstate Corporation. Allstate and The Allstate Foundation sponsor community initiatives to promote "safe and vital communities"; "tolerance, inclusion, and diversity"; and "economic empowerment." The

Allstate Foundation believes in financial potential of every individual and in helping America's families achieve their American dream. For additional information, visit www.clicktoempower.org.

About the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV), established in 2001, oversees the citywide delivery of domestic violence services, creates innovative policies, develops crisis intervention and prevention based programs, and works to increase awareness through broad and diverse outreach efforts throughout New York City. OCDV operates four Family Justice Centers (FJs) in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens, with a fifth Center opening in Staten Island in 2015. The FJs offer comprehensive wraparound services for victims of intimate partner violence, sex trafficking and elder abuse, including case management, civil legal and supportive services, as well as access to the District Attorney's Offices and the New York Police Department. The FJs are walk-in Centers that provide free and confidential services regardless of the client's language, immigration status, income, gender identity or sexual orientation.

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