Memphis, Tennessee to become latest evidence2success site, effort will bring system leaders and residents together to choose proven programs for young people

MEMPHIS (March 8, 2018) – Memphis, Tennessee will become the latest city to implement the Evidence2Success™ program, framework designed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation that uses an evidence-based approach to promote healthy child development and academic success, joining the cities Providence, Rhode Island; Mobile and Selma, Alabama; Kearns Township in Salt Lake County, Utah; and Liberty City in Miami, Florida.

The Casey Foundation's Evidence2Success™ framework helps public system leaders and community residents work together to gather local data on the needs and strengths of youth, use the data to agree on youth well-being outcomes for improvement and realign public funding to address those needs with proven prevention programs.

Evidence2Success™ will build on Memphis’ track record in bringing diverse partners together to improve the well-being of children and families. The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) will coordinate the local effort, which will focus initially on zip code 38126, the poorest area in the city of Memphis where WFGM is concentrating efforts to reduce poverty by five percent by the year 2020.

“The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) is committed to developing positive outcomes and providing opportunities for children and youth in Memphis,” Ruby Bright, Executive Director of WFGM, said. “Evidence2Success™ partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation will allow us to continue moving forward with our Vision 2020 Strategic Plan to reduce poverty by five percent by the year 2020 in zip code 38126. Part of our key goals to reduce poverty in the poorest zip code in Memphis, is working with youth. The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s generous donation provides leverage for us to reach milestones with children and youth in the areas of behavior, education and skills attainment, emotional well-being, physical health and relationships that will create generational impact in reducing poverty.”

Since the launch of Vision 2020 WFGM has awarded $2.2 million dollars to 27 grantee partner organizations to support programs provided in 38126 that advance the five goals of Vision 2020. Through a partnership with the University of Memphis, Center for Research in Educational Policy we are able to measure the outcomes and successes of our first year investment that reached over 3,500 individuals including:

- 333 now have been placed in jobs and now have steady employment
- 407 children are now enrolled in early education and child care programs
- 850 young people have been exposed to the countless opportunities provided by the programs supporting positive youth development.
- 20% increase of household income.
Beyond its grant dollars, the Annie E. Casey Foundation provides access to tools and technical assistance, including hands-on coaching, a youth survey to gather data on strengths and needs, public financing strategies and the Blueprints database of evidence-based programs to help communities implement Evidence2Success.

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For 23 years the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) has played a major role as a backbone organization aligning people, resources, and coordinating community-based services through the two-generation approach to reduce poverty.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation’s children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).