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FRAMEWORKS OF TAMPA BAY RECEIVES \$15,000 GRANT TO PROVIDE
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL EDUCATION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

TAMPA, FLA. (Nov. 6, 2014) – Frameworks of Tampa Bay (Frameworks) is the recipient of a \$15,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation to provide LifeSkills® Training to 220 sixth graders from Van Buren Middle School in Tampa, Florida.

In partnership with The Spring of Tampa Bay (The Spring), Frameworks will satisfy its goal of increasing Van Buren Middle School students' communication skills, decision-making skills, self-control, and ability to reduce anxiety by 60 percent. This will be accomplished by targeting three critical areas: resistance skills, personal-self-management skills and general social skills with information relevant to important life challenges that youth face.

Research shows that students who receive LifeSkills® Training have had a 30 percent reduction in physical aggression and a 42 percent reduction in verbal aggression.

"There's nothing more satisfying than introducing social and emotional learning to hundreds of at-risk students. We believe if one child succeeds our entire Tampa Bay community succeeds," says Jessica Muroff, executive director of Frameworks of Tampa Bay. "Through this grant, graciously provided by the Verizon Foundation, Frameworks has the opportunity to teach students how to put aside differences, practice empathy and focus efforts on schoolwork."

Sixth-grade students on the elective wheel will participate in 18 LifeSkills® Training lessons during the first semester to promote alternatives to risky behaviors, learn how to avoid peer-pressure, and boost self-esteem. In the second semester, Frameworks will build on these SEL skills and partner with The Spring. Specific lessons about healthy relationships will be taught and convey that violence is never acceptable response in a relationship conflict.

With over 30 years of supporting research, LifeSkills® Training is an evidence-based program that promotes healthy alternatives to risky behavior. Students will have access to the necessary skills to resist peer pressures and develop greater self-esteem and self-confidence, enabling them to cope effectively with anxiety and enhancing decision-making and problem-solving skills. Additionally, Frameworks staff will train teachers and administrative staff and develop a sustainability plan to continue the program after the 2014-2015 school year.

About Frameworks of Tampa Bay

A not-for-profit organization, Frameworks of Tampa Bay teaches a core set of social and emotional attitudes, values and skills that help children, teens and adults more effectively handle life challenges to succeed in academic, social and professional environments. For more information, please visit:

<http://myframeworks.org>

About The Spring of Tampa Bay

The Spring of Tampa Bay is the only certified domestic violence program serving Hillsborough County. Founded by the community in 1977, The Spring has assisted over 65,000 individuals seeking safety from harm at the hands of a loved one. The Spring serves each person individually, empowering them to make decisions about their future. The Spring provides safety at the moment of danger, helping victims gain hope for their future that comes through renewal of their spirit and self esteem to go forward. For more information, please visit: thespring.org

About the Verizon Foundation

The Verizon Foundation is focused on accelerating social change by using the company's innovative technology to help solve pressing problems in education, healthcare and energy management. Since 2000, the Verizon Foundation has invested more than half-a-billion dollars to improve the communities where Verizon employees work and live. Verizon's employees are generous with their donations and their time, having logged more than 6.8 million hours of service to make a positive difference in their communities. For more information, please visit: verizon.com/about/verizon-foundation/

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