



*every* child | *every* promise

HOW TO USE THIS TOOL KIT

## The Five Promises:

- Caring Adults
- Safe Places
- Healthy Start
- Effective Education
- Opportunities to Help Others

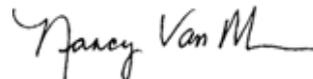
# Dear Community Member,

**Thank you for your commitment to the children of Dubuque County.** By using this tool kit, you have made a real commitment to talking about the needs of children (0–20 years) with other members of our community.

**Every Child Every Promise** is a local initiative that is based on the national movement called America’s Promise. Spearheaded by retired General Colin Powell in 1997, America’s Promise seeks to create awareness for children’s needs and coordinate services in communities by delivering Five Promises: Caring Adults, Safe Places, Healthy Start, Effective Education and Opportunities to Help Others.

In January of 2007, Dubuque was named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by the National America’s Promise Alliance. The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and Mississippi Valley Promise want every child to experience the best Dubuque has to offer, and are partnering to ensure that every child in Dubuque County receives the fundamental resources he/she needs to be successful.

Sincerely,



**Nancy Van Milligen**  
President and CEO  
Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque



**Every Child Every Promise** is an ambitious effort that kicks off in May 2007 and will continue through the fall. For the next several months, members of the community will form groups and talk about ways that we can collectively deliver the “Five Promises” to every child in our area. The process will culminate in fall 2007 with a daylong summit of community members who will craft a strategic master plan for delivering the Five Promises to children 0–20 throughout Dubuque County for years to come.

This **Every Child Every Promise Tool Kit** contains simple instructions for anyone who wants to form a group and talk about their ideas. Plus, it serves as a place to collect information about the conversation process as the months pass. This information will be used to create the strategic plan.

Thank you for getting involved! Your participation will have a positive impact on the future of our children.



**Mary Moothart, Ph.D. LMFT**  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Valley Promise



# How to begin your community conversation

## Timeline:

- **Mid-May**  
Community Foundation Youth Area Philanthopists (YAPPERS) conduct Youth Asset Mapping in Dubuque and Western Dubuque's public and private middle and high schools
- **Late May**  
Kick-off breakfast to share initiative with community
- **Memorial Day–Labor Day**  
Community Conversations
- **October**  
Community Conference/Summit Develop Master Plan Growth Chart Distributed
- **Beyond 2007**  
Mississippi Valley Promise continues to work as a collaborative clearinghouse to assess how the Five Promises are being delivered

## Gathering a Group

To help you prepare to form a group and talk with them, consider gathering family, friends and coworkers from groups such as:

- Church groups
- Service clubs and civic groups
- School groups, parents and PTAs
- Neighborhoods
- Family and extended family
- Non-profit organizations
- Businesses, departments and employees
- Girl and Boy Scout troops
- Teen student organizations
- Fraternities, sororities and campus organizations
- Parent groups
- Card or golf clubs

There is no limit to the number of people who can be in a group. You can meet wherever and whenever it works best for your group. You can meet as many times as you like to discuss your ideas.

\* National statistics are from America's Promise Alliance report: Every Child Every Promise.

† Local statistics are from the 2006 Dubuque County Youth Needs Assessment.

## Getting Started with Your Conversation

- Introduce yourself and ask others to introduce themselves.
- Guide the group through a discussion to determine which of the Five Promises you want to discuss in your meeting. (Your group may want to meet again and cover other promises at other meetings.)
- If your group is large (15+), consider dividing the group into sub-groups to have dialogue about more than one promise in a single meeting.
- Encourage participation from everyone. All perceptions and opinions count!
- Listen carefully.
- At the end of your session, capture the key thoughts on the "Sharing Your Community Conversation" sheets which are in your tool kit.
- Encourage the members of your group to view the Every Child Every Promise website at [www.everychild-everypromise.org](http://www.everychild-everypromise.org). On this website are links to the national America's Promise initiative, [www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org).

**The mission of Every Child | Every Promise**

**is to engage the entire community in**

**building a real commitment to deliver**

**every promise to every child.**

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## **Every Child | Every Promise Steering Committee:**

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