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Family Wellness Warriors Initiative To Be Featured In National Aboriginal Health Organization TV Series

FWWI Seeks To Address Devastating Problems Of Domestic Violence, Abuse And Neglect In Alaska Native Community

(Anchorage, AK, May 5, 2009) – Southcentral Foundation’s Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (FWWI) program will be featured in Inuit Tuttarvingat’s live phone-in television series on Inuit wellness. The series, to be broadcast in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and on the Internet this May, will air videos about three innovative programs that are making a difference in the lives of Alaskan Native youth, pregnant women, men and families. The series airs May 11, 12 and 13, 2009. Alaskans can tune in to the *360 North* channel to watch the live programs.

“The Family Wellness Warriors Initiative seeks to put an end to domestic violence, child sexual abuse and child neglect in the Alaska Native Community in this generation,” said SCF Acting President/CEO Charles Clement. “All individuals, regardless of their background, should participate in the prevention and awareness of these crucial issues.”

“Inuit Tuttarvingat is using this interactive television project to raise awareness of Inuit youth and coping, Inuit men’s wellness and Inuit maternity care, and to share research on these topics,” said Dianne Kinnon, director of Inuit Tuttarvingat.

This international television series, *Qanuqtuurniq – Finding the Balance*, is being produced by Inuit Tuttarvingat of the National Aboriginal Health Organization in Canada. It is a communications and outreach project for International Polar Year.

Footage about SCF’s FWWI program will be broadcast May 11 during the episode on Inuit men’s wellness, called “Angutiilli qanuilipat? – How are we as men?” The award-winning FWWI takes a positive and traditional approach to reach all members in the Alaska Native Community. Viewers will meet Max Dolchok, a participant of FWWI and now an outspoken advocate for men’s and family healing. Dolchok will talk about how FWWI allows men to step forward to take back their place as the protectors of family values.

A short video about the Community Health Practitioner Program will be aired on the Inuit maternity care episode, “Nutaraqtaarniq Nunalingnirmiunut Alianaippuq – Birth, a joyous community event,” May 12.

Project Life, a youth wellness and suicide prevention program for the Maniilaq area of Alaska, will be featured in the episode on youth, coping and endurance May 13. In this episode, called “Makkuktuuvunga, Upimmavunga – I am young, and I am proud,” viewers will see how Project Life uses digital story-telling to help Alaskan Native youth to connect with and express their culture.

Dr. Rhonda Johnson, Chair of the Department of Health Sciences and Associate Professor of Public Health at the University of Anchorage Alaska (UAA), is a member of the project team for *Qanuqtuurniq – Finding the Balance*. Dr. Johnson is leading the evaluation team that includes MPH students and will focus on lessons learned and key messages developed and delivered in this innovative multi-media pan-Arctic series.

A majority of the television series is a live panel discussion, with time for the studio audience and viewers at home to ask questions and join the discussion. The shows will also broadcast pre-recorded videos of several community-based wellness projects or programs from Canada, Alaska and Greenland. Alaskans can participate in the live broadcasts by calling or e-mailing their questions, comments and experiences. Details about how to participate are available at: www.inuitwellness.ca.

The Qanuqtuurniq – Finding the Balance series will be broadcast live in the Inuit language, with English subtitles. It will also be webcast on several sites, including the National Inuit Youth Council’s Web site, www.niyc.ca. The series is largely funded by the Government of Canada Program for International Polar Year. Funding is also provided by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; Health Canada; Public Health Agency of Canada; CIHR Team in Circumpolar Health Research; and Department of Health and Social Services, Government of Nunavut.

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Established in 1982, SCF’s mission is to work together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services. The non-profit health care affiliate of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., SCF has grown in its 26 years, from a single dental clinic to an internationally recognized, award-winning health care organization that employs more than 1,350 people and administers a budget of more than \$181 million annually to manage more than 60 health care programs and services.