



M•A•C AIDS Fund, East Metro Youth Services Partner to Promote Safe Drug Use

M•A•C AIDS Fund's \$25,000 grant will support the SWEET program to prevent drug use harm in Toronto

TORONTO (February 6, 2015) – East Metro Youth Services proudly announces a \$25,000 grant from the M•A•C AIDS Fund to promote safe drug use and HIV AIDS prevention among Toronto youth 12 to 29 years of age who have been involved in or at risk of entering the sex trade or who are youth who have been domestically trafficked.

Key funding from M•A•C AIDS will be used to support the SWEET (Sexual Wellness Empowerment & Education Team) program to launch on February 25, 2015 in Toronto. The SWEET drop-in is set for every third Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the first floor of the Southeast Family Health Team Building at 1871 Danforth Avenue, where harm reduction supplies, sexual health counselling, and trauma therapy will be provided.

Launching SWEET follows EMYS identifying an increase in youth involved in the sex trade attending its walk-in counselling clinic. Those youth are often estranged from their families and prone to drug use, including use of harmful injection drugs.

SWEET aims at reducing associated risks for HIV exposure among this marginalized population, using both a professional therapist and a peer mentor.

The harm reduction lessons and benefits of the SWEET program will include community presentations to educate other service providers about working with youth at risk for HIV, including community outreach workers, child and youth workers and therapists.

Appointments for the SWEET program can be booked by calling Carly Kalish at 416-438-3697, Ext. 242.

About East Metro Youth Services

East Metro Youth Services (EMYS) is an accredited adolescent mental health and addiction centre. EMYS has been serving young people and their families in East Toronto since 1974. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to meet the needs of the clients, participants, families and communities we serve. www.emys.on.ca

###

For more information:

Carly Kalish, Therapist
416-438-3697, Ext. 242 / ckalish@emys.on.ca