



For Immediate Release

CONTACT:

Sally Spencer-Thomas, Psy.D.
CEO & Co-Founder, Carson J Spencer Foundation
720-244-6535
Sally@CarsonJSpencer.org

New Construction Industry Blueprint for Suicide Prevention Released through National Partnership

Washington D.C., September 3, 2015 – The Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified the construction industry among the top nine occupations with the highest risk for suicide. Demanding physical work, coupled with the stresses of seasonal employment and often minimal access to mental health care, often create a workforce vulnerable to mental health challenges like depression, substance abuse, and suicidal thoughts. Today, a national partnership of construction industry leaders and suicide prevention experts launch a collaborative initiative designed to prevent suicides.

The Carson J Spencer Foundation, in partnership with RK, and the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, today, jointly released a suicide prevention guide entitled, **A Construction Industry Blueprint: Suicide Prevention in the Workplace**. The guide is a clear call-to-action to construction executives around the world to make suicide prevention a health and safety priority. It also gives managers clear guidelines on healthy approaches and prevention measures. The Blueprint is offered as a free downloadable PDF resource from www.WorkingMinds.org and is intended to assist the construction industry workplaces build their capacity to better prevent suicide.

“The tough-guy culture in construction certainly makes for rugged employees, but when people are overwhelmed by chronic pain, job uncertainty or mental health problems like depression or substance abuse, this tough exterior can prevent workers from reaching out and getting much needed support and treatment,” said Sally Spencer-Thomas, CEO and Co-Founder of the Carson J Spencer Foundation, the lead partner on the Blueprint project.

The Blueprint was produced by the Carson J Spencer Foundation, a Denver-based nonprofit leading innovation in suicide prevention, and was sponsored by RK. Additional support was provided by the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, ACIG, BCRC Administration, Inc., Cator, Ruma & Associates, Colorado State University, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, G.H. Phipps, Lakeside Industries, RK, Shaw Construction, Surescape Insurance Services, LLC., and the U.S. Department of Labor – OSHA, Region VIII.

“Helping construction companies be proactive and prevent suicide makes sense,” said Jon Kinning, COO of RK. “Workers in our industry are at risk, and there is no reason to stand back and wait for tragedy to strike. We are proud to help lead the industry in finding solutions and saving lives.”



"I am encouraged to see leaders in the construction industry, like RK, recognize the importance of mental health issues and suicide prevention for their craftspeople. I hope other construction companies will strongly consider joining them in this important effort to save workers' lives," Brad G. Baptiste, Regional VPP Manager, U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA, Region VIII.

"The Blueprint is a vital resource for those employees struggling with depression, anxiety, or suicidal thoughts. We need to be supportive of their rigorous and demanding work environments." said Doryn Chervin, Dr.P.H., Executive Secretary of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and Vice President and Senior Scientist at Education Development Center, Inc. "Through this Blueprint, and the collaborative partnership of construction industry leaders and the suicide prevention field, we will work to save lives."

Construction Industry Blueprint: Suicide Prevention in the Workplace can be accessed here: www.WorkingMinds.org

###

The Carson J Spencer Foundation (www.CarsonJSpencer.org) is a Colorado nonprofit, established in 2005. We envision a world where leaders and communities are committed to sustaining a passion for living. We elevate the conversation to make suicide prevention a health and safety priority. We sustain a passion for living by:

- Delivering innovative and effective suicide prevention programs for working-aged people.
 - www.WorkingMinds.org
 - www.ManTherapy.org
- Coaching young leaders to develop social enterprises for mental health promotion and suicide prevention.
- Supporting people bereaved by suicide.

Contact: Sally Spencer-Thomas, PsyD, CEO & Co-Founder, 720-244-6535, sally@carsonjspencer.org

The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (www.ActionAllianceforSuicidePrevention.org) is the public-private partnership working to advance the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and make suicide prevention a national priority. Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) operates the Secretariat for the Action Alliance, which was launched in 2010 by former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates with the goal of saving 20,000 lives in five years.

Contact: Eileen Sexton, Director of Communications, 202-572-5383, esexton@edc.org.

About RK

RK is the Rocky Mountain Region's top supplier of mechanical, fabrication and service solutions for construction, industrial and commercial clients. With two locations in Denver and Henderson, Colorado that span 24 acres, RK offers more than 155,000 square feet of leading-edge fabrication facilities. A team of over 1,000 employees, and our six integrated business units (Mechanical, Service, Steel, Energy, Water and Electrical) make RK Colorado's largest single source for mechanical contracting, manufacturing, steel fabrication, prefabricated construction, facilities maintenance services, electrical expertise and water treatment solutions. RK is recognized for quality and safety: RK is ISO 9001:2008, ASME and AISC Certified and has attained top-level OSHA accreditations. RK is a family-owned, Colorado-based firm that has grown since its humble beginnings over half a century ago into one of the region's fast growing companies. For more information, call 303.901.0400 or visit rkmi.com.

—END—