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EMERGE and Momentum merging to expand employment opportunities for people who need them most.

The board of directors of EMERGE Community Development, Momentum Enterprises and Project for Pride in Living (PPL), three Twin Cities non-profits, have mutually agreed on a plan to enable Momentum to merge its operations with EMERGE, effective August 1st, 2015. The new entity brings together Momentum's three social enterprise businesses that create jobs for low-income adult trainees and EMERGE's broad range of employment and training programs. Well-aligned by their shared missions to help people facing significant barriers to become employed, the long-term partners will create a new organization poised for growth and innovation.

The new organization will be led by Mike Wynne, EMERGE's President and CEO. Current Momentum President Janet Ludden will join EMERGE as its new Executive Vice President responsible for a newly created Enterprise Division. The merged entity will have projected revenues of about \$8.2 million. Its 65 professionals will serve more than 3000 people annually in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

"EMERGE is very excited to become the next steward of this important community asset," Wynne said. "We take our responsibility seriously to expand employment opportunities for people who need them the most. We are also very pleased to welcome Janet Ludden and her talented team to EMERGE. We are most excited about what we will do together." Ludden added, "It is a unique opportunity to bring together the passion and experience of these two teams under a common effort. I am thrilled to join Mike and the EMERGE team and look forward to our new adventure ahead. We are also so grateful for PPL's long-time support and guidance of our organization through the best and the most challenging times. We look forward to our future partnership."

The move will also enable PPL to focus on its own distinctive mission in job training and housing programs. PPL President Paul Williams said, "Project for Pride in Living sees its leadership role here as finding the best opportunity to preserve and invest in the historic mission of Momentum. We're excited about this new opportunity and are honored to be a partner in making it happen."

About the partners:

EMERGE Community Development was founded in 1995, as a non-profit spin off of Pillsbury United Communities, with the purpose of creating jobs and training opportunities for low income adults and youth through innovative programs and enterprises. It achieved national recognition for creating and operating

EmergeWORKS, a market-based staffing enterprise designed to provide employment experience for un- and underemployed workers. In 2007, EMERGE redeveloped and opened its new corporate headquarters in a formerly-blighted building at 1101 West Broadway in North Minneapolis and in early 2015 completed the multi-year renovation of the historic North Branch Library to become the new EMERGE Career and Technology Center, a new center for career training. In 2014, the organization was recognized as the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce's "Non-profit of the Year." That year, EMERGE served more than 2500 job seekers in programs and helped more than 900 adults and youth become placed in a job.

Momentum Enterprises operates three sustainable social enterprise businesses to create jobs that empower people facing employment barriers to achieve life-long success within their communities. First incorporated in March 26, 1982 as an independent (501c3) nonprofit, the current Momentum Enterprises is the result of the merger of Rebuild Resources and PPL Enterprises, Inc. It brings the strengths of both ancestral organizations to advance economic and racial equity in the region. Most Momentum employees have never experienced success in work. Grounded on the belief that the best anti-poverty program is a job, Momentum helps people face their challenges, learn new skills, and see possibilities for their lives in new ways. We provide technical skills training, sobriety support and the employability skills needed to be successful employees and get their next, and even better, job. Momentum received Accenture's US Corporate Citizenship 2015 Social Change Award.

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) Founded in 1972, PPL is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping low-income individuals and families improve their lives through services and programs that promote Housing Stability, Economic Advancement, Family Stability, and Youth Achievement. PPL's mission is: *to work with lower-income individuals and families to achieve greater self-sufficiency through housing, employment training, support services, and education.* In 2014, PPL served nearly 13,000 men, women and children. www.ppl-inc.org