



For Immediate Release

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**"Maintaining Civility in a Time of Workplace Uncertainty"
Because It Matters Workplace Initiative to Present Panel Discussion**

VENICE, FL - For Immediate Release. Substance abuse, domestic violence, suicide—all are on an uptick as the economy continues on a downslide. Because It Matters, the community civility initiative, offers workplaces and their employees an antidote to ongoing stress through recognizing and practicing civil behavior. To give Gulf Coast businesses and their employees tools for improving their workplaces by enhancing civility, the second in a series of complimentary workshops will be held on May 19, 2009.

"In times of economic and societal stress, we believe *even more* civility is needed in the workplace," says Teri Hansen, CEO of Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, the sponsor of Because It Matters. "Our panel of experts will discuss and offer ideas for supporting employees and external customers, too. We are all coping with the recession, and this workshop will be a positive action for those who participate."

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The workshop consists of a panel discussion featuring: LaReine Duckworth, vice president human resources, Englewood Bank; Robert Mignone, M.D., F.A.P.A., psychiatrist, Gulf Coast Health Services; and Suzanne Willis, APR, director of public relations, The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota. Moderator is Lynn Nemser, SPHR, owner and president of Partners in Performance, Inc.

"Maintaining Civility in a Time of Workplace Uncertainty" will be held at the Venetian Golf and River Club, Venice, 3:30-5:00 p.m. with hors de oeuvres and wine reception to follow. For more information and reservations visit www.becauseitmatters.net.

About Because It Matters

Because It Matters is a community-wide initiative to promote civility in our neighborhoods, our schools, our workplaces, and our civic organizations. It is a campaign to encourage citizens of our region to communicate in a more respectful and effective way, improving public discourse and increasing civic participation. The goal is a strengthening of our social fabric, making our region an even better place to live. Since the launch of Because It Matters in October 2007, 62 workplaces representing more than 14,000 employees have registered for the initiative's workplace civility program. Learn more at: www.BecauseItMatters.net.

Because It Matters is owned by the community, and supported by Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice.

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