

MEDIA RELEASE

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Step up to Leadership graduates ready to serve on area non-profit boards (April 11, 2008)

(April 11, 2008– St. Joseph, Mo.) “Equipped, well-trained, motivated – and available for service.” This could describe the graduating class of Step Up to Leadership, a three-month program hosted by Community Action Partnership. Following next week’s graduation ceremony, course members will pursue an appointment on a community Board and can also apply for a mini-grant for their chosen cause.

“Part of why this class is so great is that it allows a framework for people from different backgrounds to build relationships with one another. Program funding allows the costs of childcare, gas, etc., to be paid for low-income persons who would otherwise have significant barriers toward attending. Participants range from those who have never participated on a community board to experienced volunteers, and from every age and income level,” says Delphia Shanks, Step Up to Leadership co-facilitator.

Community Action Partnership is pleased to announce the graduation of the third Step Up to Leadership class at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2008 at the Corby Building. The program will feature each of the graduates speaking about their community passion, as well as how they plan to apply what they have learned in class to their future community pursuits.

“I am very excited to see what this dynamic group of participants is going to be involved with in the community. They’ve been really engaged in taking what they’re learning in the class into the real world with them,” says Jodi Bloemker, one of the class facilitators.

Step Up to Leadership is a 12-week leadership and personal development class that prepares area residents who meet low-income guidelines to serve as members of a non-profit Board of Directors. Students who have attended the class will be graduating with the skills necessary to serve on a community Board, and will have the opportunity to compete for a community project mini-grant. Step Up to Leadership covers a broad range of topics including team building, diversity, Robert’s Rules of Order, and Board responsibilities and roles.

“This is an exciting opportunity to hear from a group of community-minded individuals who are committed to becoming more involved and well equipped to effectively serve our neighborhoods, their family and our city,” says Shanks.

The Step Up to Leadership graduation ceremony will be on Monday, April 21 at the Corby Building, 422 Felix St., at 5:30 p.m.(top floor banquet room.)

For more information, contact Delphia Shanks at (816) 233-8281 or by email at dshanks@endpov.com.

Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph is one of 19 Community Action Agencies in Missouri and one of 900 Community Action Agencies in the U.S. working to fight poverty at the local level. Services offered by Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph to low-income individuals in Buchanan, Clinton, Andrew and DeKalb counties include Head Start, offering comprehensive educational, nutritional and emotional support for children ages birth to five; housing and rent assistance; energy crisis and utility assistance; leadership and life skills training; assistance with college entrance; and employment and workforce training programs through the Missouri Career Center.