

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Dec. 16, 2008

### **Source: Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph**

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## **Western Reception Diagnostic Correctional Center brings classroom supplies to children in poverty; fills teachers' "wish list" (Dec. 16, 2008)**

(St. Joseph, Mo.) Even grown-ups still make wish lists and love presents, especially when it's art and educational supplies for their "kids" at Head Start.

On Monday, Dec. 22nd, representatives from Western Reception Diagnostic Correctional Center (WRDCC) will make some Head Start teachers' wish lists come true when they deliver wrapped gifts for teachers to use in the classroom at the S. 9<sup>th</sup> Head Start Center in St. Joseph.

Head Start is child and family development program for families that meet income guidelines for poverty, and is a part of Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph. The center-based service offers school-ready curriculum, nutritional meals, immunizations and physical and dental evaluations for children ages 3 to 5 years. Weekly home visits, goal-setting, parenting tips and family self-sufficiency skills are key elements of the program – along with opportunities to build social connections and volunteer.

"The Head Start program operates on a limited federal budget, so private and corporate support allows teachers to introduce new learning opportunities to the students – and provides some of the special "extras" the students and teachers greatly appreciate," says Rachel McCoy, director of development and communications for Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph. "The classroom items donated by WRDCC will be enjoyed for months to come."

This is the fifth time WRDCC has helped the Head Start program, but this year the committee took a new focus toward classroom supplies and materials. Some of the items will be used for Family Fun Nights, which allow parents and children to build social networks, learn new parenting skills and make memories as they work their way toward economic stability.

Representatives from WRDCC will deliver wrapped classroom supplies to Community Action Partnership on **Monday, Dec. 22nd, at 8:30 a.m.** at the central office at 817 Monterey.

Community Action Partnership has provided programs to move low-income families out of poverty since 1964, serving nearly 16,000 people in poverty in Northwest Missouri. Head Start is one of the core programs managed by the agency, with 12 Head Start centers available to low-income families. Additional services provided by Community Action Partnership to low-income families include utilities assistance, affordable housing, financial literacy and home ownership classes, life skills and workforce training.

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