

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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

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## **New Nature Center welcomes children in poverty and their families Early Head Start program visits the Center as an educational outing (Nov. 17, 2008)**

(St. Joseph, Mo. ) Prehistoric animals and winding rivers live in the imaginations of the children enrolled in the Early Head Start home based program. They are explored in favorite books, and acted out in miniature during social gatherings and Family Fun Nights. But on Wednesday, Nov. 19, a group of young learners from the Early Head Start program will bring these experiences to life first-hand at the new Remington Nature Center.

Early Head Start is a child and family development program for families that meet income guidelines, and is a part of Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph. Weekly home visits, each spanning an hour and a half, feature one-on-one educational and literacy activities for each child by their parents and home visitor. Goal-setting, parenting tips and family self-sufficiency skills are also key elements of each visit.

Wednesday's trip to the Nature Center is a monthly "Social," which gives children and families a chance to learn, grow and connect together in a public setting.

"In short, the Early Head Start program helps bring family's dreams for themselves and their children's success – both in school and in life – to reality," said Lisa Driskel Hawxby, Early Head Start Education and Home Base Coordinator. "Exploring literacy, learning independence through the mastery of self-help skills, exposure to new learning opportunities, and how to build healthy networks within their family and community all set the stage for success in school – and ultimately, break the cycle of poverty."

Socials and Family Fun Nights are offered to the families at no cost, and are made possible with help from corporate and private contributions. The Ray Lindsey Company, a private team of environmental professionals, is the corporate sponsor for this event. Founded in 1961, the Ray Lindsey Company provides solutions for water, wastewater and air pollution applications, and serves the needs of cities, utilities, industry, consultants and contractors in Kansas and western Missouri.

"As a corporate citizen, we're pleased to bring families to the new Nature Center," said Joe Maris, sales representative for the Ray Lindsey Company. "It lines up with our mission to be environmental stewards and create safe, thriving communities. We hope the kids will be inspired and have a great time learning about the area's natural environment."

**The Nature Center event is Wed., Nov. 19, at 10 a.m.** For more information about Early Head Start, contact Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph at (816) 233-8281. Learn more about the Ray Lindsey Company at [www.raylindseycompany.com](http://www.raylindseycompany.com).