

MEDIA RELEASE

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Source: Community Action Partnership

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“Head Start Heroes Day” brings U.S. Bank team together to help low-income children and families (Aug. 22, 2008)

(Aug. 22, 2008 – St. Joseph, Mo.) Paint cans, floor sanders, sheetrock. Just another day at the office for U.S. Bank employees.

As part of a commitment to corporate citizenship, nine U.S. Bank employees from St. Joseph will sport their best “old” clothes for a day of team-building and community service from 7:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Aug. 5 at the St. Patrick’s Early Child Development Center, a work in progress from Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph. St. Patrick’s Early Childhood Development Center is located at 1703 S. 12th Street in St. Joseph.

Formerly used as a convent by the St. Patrick’s Church, Community Action Partnership entered into an agreement for use of the nearly century-old facility this year. The agency is working to renovate the space to serve as a Head Start early child development center and workspace for family educators/home visitors. Upon completion this fall, 36 low-income children, ages 18 months to 3 years old, will attend the Center. Families who enroll in Head Start live between 100 and 130 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

“We know the effects of poverty on children can be countered with quality early-childhood development programs like the one we will provide at the St. Pat’s Center,” said Gretchen Herndon, Head Start program director. “We help parents get involved in their child’s school success right from the beginning, as well as their own personal success. We couldn’t do it without volunteers from the community.”

Called “Head Start Heroes Day,” employee volunteers from U.S. Bank will help the Center open its doors by doing interior painting, floor sanding and interior staining tasks. U.S. Bank employees are encouraged to help create a stronger, healthier community through service, and Market President Mark Cochran contacted Community Action Partnership about the project after touring the St. Patrick’s facility this spring.

“We have great people on board with generous spirits, and I knew this would be a great chance to give back to the community and engage in team-building,” said Cochran. “The project lines up really well with U.S. Bank’s philosophy that investing in our neighbors is a top priority.”

The St. Pat’s Center, as part of Head Start, will offers on-site child development services to low-income families, including school-ready curriculum, nutritional meals, complete physical, dental and mental health screenings, and family events. Conference space upstairs allows Head Start educators and home visitors to meet with families on a regular basis.

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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, and the St. Patrick's Center is one of 12 Head Start centers available to low-income families across Northwest Missouri. The Head Start child development program strives for success for the whole family, and is currently serving 500 low-income children in the Northwest Missouri area. 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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