

MEDIA RELEASE

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Source: Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph

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CAP celebrates 45 years of helping families move out of poverty

Drop-in party March 16 will feature the past—and future—of Community Action

(March 9, 2009—St. Joseph, MO) Photos, friends and fighting poverty – from teen youth programs in the 1970s, to flood relief in the 1990s and the expansion of Head Start, to name a few. Information about Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph (CAP St. Joe)'s contributions to fighting local poverty will be featured at the agency's 45th birthday reception next week.

The community is invited to attend a drop-in reception March 16 at Commerce Bank, Ashland and Karnes location, from 3-5 p.m. Refreshments will be served At 3:15 p.m., the Chamber of Commerce Diplomats Club will present a Community Achievement Award to the agency, followed by a presentation by Jamie Grayson, a Head Start graduate who is now a local finance executive.

At the event, there will be a chance to view photos of the agency's progress, meet program directors and learn how the historical Community Action initiative has changed lives in St. Joseph and Northwest Missouri.

"I am proud that Community Action Partnership has been able to fight poverty in Northwest Missouri for 45 years," says CAP Executive Director Dave Leyland. "In my sixteen years here, I have seen some wonderful things happen and have been proud to be part of changing lives. We appreciate all of the community support that has made our programs and our 45 years of service possible."

Community Action Partnership as a national movement owes its existence to President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty." On April 20, 1964, Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, which created Community Action Partnerships across the country. Nearly one year later, on

Did you know?

...Community Action Partnership has been in St. Joseph for 45 years (The agency was called Economic Opportunity Corporation for the first 40).

...Head Start began in 1965 as a summer kindergarten readiness program. It now serves nearly 500 children living in poverty.

...CAP has had youth employment programs for teens since 1965.

...The agency has only worked in housing since 1998 - but has already completed over 400 housing units for low-income families.

April 14, 1965, the Economic Opportunity Corporation of St. Joseph was born, which later was renamed to Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph. Since 1965, CAP has been helping move households out of poverty and engaging communities to end poverty in Northwest Missouri. Core programs include Head Start, housing, employment/job training, energy assistance and leadership/life skills.

For more information about CAP's 45th Birthday Reception, contact Rachel McCoy, Community Action Partnership, at (816) 344-5010 or email rmccoy@endpov.com

Community Action Partnership has provided programs to move low-income families out of poverty since 1965, serving nearly 16,000 people in poverty in Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton and DeKalb Counties. Head Start is one of the core programs managed by the agency. 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. For more information, visit www.endpov.com.

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Helping people. Changing lives. Engaging communities to end poverty, since 1965.