

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Heroes Needed to Help Build Playground

(SAINT PAUL, MN – August 15, 2006) - To be a hero this fall you don't need to wear a cape or have a wacky sidekick. The YWCA St. Paul is currently seeking volunteers to help build a playground at a housing complex for 18 families located near Selby Ave. The process began last fall when a long-time volunteer (and local hero) recognized the need for an onsite playground and stepped forward with a donation of \$4500.

Building on the individual donation received last fall, staff have secured additional funding and have raised \$15,500 to date. The total project cost is estimated at \$25,000. Planning to move forward with installation this fall, we are currently exploring creative ways to make sure our youth and families get the very best. With your help we can make sure children have a safe place to play!

Opportunities for community volunteers:

Help us do more with less – Utilizing a volunteer team led by a paid foreman, we can expect to save approximately \$4,000 off budgeted installation costs! Volunteer installations for a project this size typically take 1 working day to complete.

Can't volunteer your time? In-kind donations make it possible to build more for less. Specific items like rental of a cement mixer and bobcat are vital to the project. Other opportunities for in-kind donations include lending hand tools, shovels and wheel barrows for installation day and providing food and beverages for volunteers.

Add to the bottom line – Although the modular design of the play equipment allows us to downsize and build a structure to fit our current budget, it would be wonderful to install the playground as originally designed. Can your group plan a creative fundraiser or help secure matching dollars?

For more information regarding the playground project, please contact Darcie Moore at (651) 265-0718

About the Transitional Housing Program

In 1986, the YWCA St Paul founded the Transitional Housing Program, the first of its kind in Minnesota, to help women move from homelessness to self-sufficiency. Now providing housing for up to 36 families at any given time, THP helps participants stabilize and rebuild their lives by offering a unique combination of affordable housing, case management and onsite programming. Once enrolled in THP, families secure affordable housing and supportive services in one of three agency owned buildings for up to two years. Utilizing program space such as the Child Enrichment Center (CEC) and Technology Learning Center (TLC), THP helps women develop the skills they need to move forward in life.

About the YWCA St. Paul

YWCA St. Paul equips and empowers women, children and families to grow and thrive. While addressing the ever-changing needs of our diverse society, today's YWCA St. Paul continues the great traditions begun nearly 100 years ago. The YWCA St. Paul strengthens its community by breaking down the barriers of poverty, race and gender through programming that promotes women and combats the effects of poverty on young people. Programs focus on four core areas:

- Empowering Women and Families Through Housing and Supportive Services.
- Improving the Lives and Futures of Young People Through Targeted Programs.
- Preparing Older Youth to Take Their Place in the Workforce Through Programming and Support.
- Promoting Physical and Emotional Wellness Through Health and Fitness.