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## **2008 May Day Activities to Commemorate 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Annie Malone**

**St. Louis, Missouri** - Annie Malone Children & Family Service Center's Board of Directors and May Day Committee have officially scheduled the 2008 May Day activities for Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18. Activities will begin with the traditional Kickoff Barbecue, to be held Friday, April 25 in Kiener Plaza and will conclude with the May Day Parade and McDonald's May Day Bluesfest. This year's activities will commemorate Annie Malone's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the community.

The barbecue will feature celebrity servers, a new addition to this year's kickoff activity. Leaders of local companies, principals, teachers, community leaders, family advocates, ministers, entertainers and the like will dedicate their time serving barbecue in support of Annie Malone's fundraising efforts.

The Soiree, an awards banquet honoring persons who have given significant service to children, will be held Friday, May 16, at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel. The Soiree will also include a silent auction. The Gospel Celebration featuring local gospel singers, choirs and praise dance groups will follow on Saturday, May 17, at Antioch Baptist Church in the historic Ville neighborhood. The parade will conclude the activities on Sunday, May 18, taking the route along Market Street between 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway in downtown St. Louis. The McDonald's May Day Bluesfest will immediately follow the parade in Kiener Plaza. The May Day activities will celebrate the theme, 'Together We Stand'.

"We are delighted that the May Day activities are a part of Annie Malone's 120-year history in the St. Louis community," said Delsie Boyd, Chairman of the 2008 May Day Committee. "That makes this year's events even more special," he said.

As in past years, the May Day Parade will feature marching bands, dance teams, floats and motorcades. Entry fees for the parade are: \$300 for dump trucks and diesel trucks, \$250 for floats, \$85 for motorcycles, \$60 for horses (each), \$60 for multi-cultural performing groups, and marching units (school bands) are no charge. Vendor reservations are available for a fee of \$150. All vendors are expected to display a vendor permit issued by Annie Malone and shall be responsible for securing all required permits from the city of St. Louis. Parade and vendor booth applications are now available.

“We are looking forward to seeing beautiful floats, out-of-state bands and family-oriented entertainment this year,” Boyd said. “We want to continue to make history with all of our May Day activities,” he said.

May Day activities are the largest and only fund-raiser Annie Malone hosts each year. Funds raised during the activities go to support the programs and services that help to improve the quality of life for children and families in the St. Louis community. The May Day Parade is the second largest and oldest African-American parade in the nation.

For more information on May Day activities, celebrity servers, and sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, please contact Annie Malone at (314) 531-0120 or visit the website at [www.anniemalone.com](http://www.anniemalone.com).

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