



For Immediate Release

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Interview and Photo Opportunities

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Annie Malone's 2010 May Day Weekend Celebration Highlights Children and Community as a Priority

St. Louis, MO – It's almost here – The Annie Malone May Day Weekend celebrating 122 years of service begins Friday, May 14th with the Soiree Awards Dinner, continues on Saturday, May 15th with a Gospel Concert, and concludes Sunday, May 16th with the Annual May Day Parade and McDonald's May Day Blues Festival. The 2010 May Day theme, 'Our Children, Our Community...Our Priority!' highlights the centers commitment to serving abused, abandoned and neglected children and at-risk families. Soiree reservations and Parade Entry registrations will be accepted through May 14th.

The May Day Weekend event schedule includes:

The **Soiree & Silent Auction on Friday, May 14**. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. and will be held at the beautiful **Chase Park Plaza Hotel**. We will honor individuals who help to improve the quality of life for children and families in the community. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. The "Child Advocate Award" will be presented to: Delayzio Amerson, Rusty Baker, Janet Bonner, Rebecca Sloan Byrne, Pastor Myrten E. Byrd, Jr., Darnetta Clinkscale, Dr. Denise Hooks-Anderson, Austin A. Layne, Jr., Veronica Logan, Pastor LaJuana McFadden, Theopal Morgan, Deidre Pujols, Susan J. Reid, Ricardo Riley, Karlton Thornton, and Dr. Etefia Umana. During the elegant black tie affair, six special awards will be presented. The special awardees include: John A. Luth of Ameren UE's, Energy Delivery - Archview Division who will receive the Annie M. Turnbo Pope Malone Award; Dr. Donald M. Suggs of The St. Louis American who will receive the Founders Award. Four other remarkable individuals: Robin Boyce of The St. Louis City Comptroller's Office, Bonita Cornute of FOX 2/KPLR 11, Wendell Kimbrough of ARCHS, and Eric Galloway of E.G. Enterprises, will receive the "Making a Difference Award." Reservations to attend are \$75.00 per seat and \$750.00 per table of ten guests.

The **Gospel Concert Celebration** will follow on **Saturday, May 15** at the **Antioch Baptist Church** located in the historic Ville neighborhood at no charge. "Saints are encouraged to bring a neighbor for praise and worship celebration no one should miss" said Austin A. Layne, Jr. Gospel Concert Chair. Starting at 6:00 p.m. the event will feature an eclectic mix of gospel music and special performances by guests who will include Zella Jackson Price, Gregg "Happy Guitarist" Haynes, Lady Eneazer Moore, Master Dello Thedford, local praise dancers, mime groups and a host of invited Church Choirs. Everyone from St. Louis County to East St. Louis is invited to attend.

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The **Annual Annie Malone May Day Parade, Sunday, May 16**, will step-off at 1:00 p.m. for its fifth year traveling East along Market Street between Jefferson and Broadway in downtown St. Louis. Grand Marshals for the parade are Dr. Chief Daniel Isom of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and St. Louis' homegrown nationally recognized recording artist, P-Dub (a.k.a. Pretty Willie). A number of official dignitaries and child advocates will travel the parade route escorted by multiples of limousines and the Kustom Corvette Club. The 3 hour parade includes a variety of bands, community organizations, and local businesses. Spectators from across the Midwest region attend the event. Some participants travel from Kansas City, Omaha, Kansas, and Nebraska to support the center's fundraising event efforts.

Immediately following the Parade, Niecy from Foxy's 95.5 will host the **McDonald's May Day Blues Fest**. The event will take place in Kiener Plaza at 7th and Market Street with performances by nationally known Wendell B. often compared to greats like Luther Vandross and Barry White; and Skeet Rodgers and Inner City Blues Band – known as the best Blues Band in St. Louis, concluding the weekend of celebrations.

May Day festivities are supported and sponsored by several community organizations, media companies, and individuals. They include: Emerson; Cricket Communications; McDonald's; U.S. Bank; Southwest Bank; L'Ecole Culinaire; Kustom Corvette Club; Best Buy; Bank of New York Mellon; The Kaden Korporation; The Dream Center; Barnyard Kitejen; Fox 2 News KTVI/KPLR 11; KSDK Channel 5; Clear Channel's Majic 104.9 and Hallelujah; Radio One's Foxy 95.5 and Hot 104.1; St. Louis City's STL TV; GTN - Gateway Television News (formerly News 20), and a host of other supporters.

For more information about May Day activities or volunteer opportunities, please call (314) 531-0120 or visit the website at www.anniemalone.com.

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Since 1888, Annie Malone Children & Family Service Center has been an anchor in the Ville community, dedicated to improving the quality of life for abused, neglected, and abandoned children and at-risk families. To date, the Annual May Day activities serve as the largest fundraising events held by the agency each year. Proceeds benefit children and at-risk families, through its residential treatment, therapeutic school (Emerson Academy), transitional living, teen crisis, crisis nursery and parenting education programs.