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For Immediate Release

PHOTOS INCLUDED

Annie Malone Announces Dates for 2009 May Day Festivities

St. Louis, MO – Ever imagine being a parade marshal? Riding atop a parade float or perfecting your parade wave? Here is your chance! Annie Malone Children & Family Service Center announces the official schedule for the 2009 May Day events. The full weekend of festivities will commence Friday, May 15 and conclude with the McDonald's May Day Blues Fest which follows the long awaited May Day Parade!

The 2009 activities will begin with a Kickoff Barbecue Friday, April 24, 2009 in Kiener Plaza. The Soiree, an awards dinner and silent auction honoring persons who have demonstrated significant service to children, will be Friday, May 15, 2009 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel. The Gospel Celebration will follow on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at the Antioch Baptist Church. On Sunday, May 17, 2009, the parade will take the route along Market Street between Jefferson and Broadway in downtown St. Louis. It will begin at 1 p.m. and conclude with the McDonald's Blues Fest in Kiener Plaza. The May Day events will celebrate the theme, 'Connecting Families'.

"Although we're known to many as a Parade, we're also known to many as a blessing. The parade and other activities help us raise funds to provide services for children and families in the community," said Richard L. King, CEO of Annie Malone. "Despite economic times, we ask that the entire St. Louis community continue to support our activities. Participation and contributions helps Annie Malone connect families," he said.

The Annie Malone May Day Parade has been a popular event for St. Louisans for over a century. The Parade features marching bands, dance teams, floats and motorcades to name a few. "This year we have a fabulous T-Shirt available for purchase, starting at \$10.00 each. One of our other goals for this year is to add more decorative floats to the parade," said Delsie Boyd, 2009 May Day Committee Chairman. Entry fees for the parade are the following: \$300 for dump trucks and diesel trucks, \$250 for floats, \$85 for motorcycles, \$60 for horses (each), and \$60 for multi-cultural performing groups. Marching units (school bands) may enter at no charge. Vendor and food booth reservations are available for a fee of \$150. All vendors are required 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 applications are available now for distribution. This year, registration will send 4 days earlier, May 11, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

To date, May Day activities serve as the largest fundraising event held by the agency each year. For more information on May Day activities and for volunteering opportunities, please contact Annie Malone at (314) 531-0120 or visit the website at www.anniemalone.com.

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School bands perform; pom pom squad's chant and decorative floats ride along Market Street in previous May Day Parades. Photos by On-Site Photography.