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Annie Malone Announces Dates for 2007 May Day Activities

St. Louis, MO - The Board of Directors for Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center has accepted the recommendation of the May Day Committee and has officially scheduled the 2007 May Day activities for Friday, May 18 through Sunday, May 20, 2007 and will conclude with the May Day Parade.

The 2007 May Day activities will begin with a Kickoff Barbecue Friday, April 27, 2007 at Keiner Plaza. The following week there will be a Barbecue & Community Fair in the historic Ville neighborhood, Saturday, May 5, 2007. The Barbecue and Fair will include health screening opportunities, activities for children and barbecue for the community. Previous residents and staff of Annie Malone are invited to share in the celebration that day. The Soiree, an awards banquet honoring persons who have given significant service to children, will be Friday, May 18, 2007. The Gospel Celebration will follow on Saturday, May 19, 2007. The parade will conclude the activities on Sunday, May 20, 2007, taking the route along Market Street between Jefferson and Broadway in downtown St. Louis. The May Day events will celebrate the theme, 'We are Family'.

"We are excited about all of our activities this year," said Delsie Boyd, 2007 May Day Committee chairman. "The St. Louis community supported our activities in great numbers last year and we're looking forward to even greater support and participation this year," he said.

The 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. One of the goals for this year is to add more kid-friendly features prior to the Parade. 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), \$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 will be available starting January 2, 2007.

"May Day activities serve as the largest fund-raiser we hold each year," said Boyd. "Funds raised during these events 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

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Agency recognizes that its success is a result of the community's continuous support," he said.

This will be the second year the parade has marched along Market Street. In January 2006, the Board of Directors of the Annie Malone Children & Family Service Center decided to change the parade route to Market Street to accommodate the growing crowds in excess of 100,000 people. The change in route was the fourth in the history of the parade. The parade began as a simple celebration surrounding the Annie Malone Children's Home, then moved to the Sears Building off Kingshighway, then to Natural Bridge between Union and Fair and in 2006, to East on Market Street between Jefferson and Broadway in downtown St. Louis. The May Day Parade is the second largest and oldest African-American parade in the nation.

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 band marches down Market Street at 2006 May Day Parade. Photo by On-Site Photography.