
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 3, 2008

Ald. Michael Murphy
(414) 286-3763

Generous Grant Keeps Balls Bouncing & Youngsters Busy At West Side Parish

Safe & Sound Helps Keep Doors of St. Catherine's Gym Open

A generous \$10,000 grant from Safe & Sound will allow hundreds of youngsters to continue to play basketball and take part in educational activities this summer at a parish on the city's west side, according to Ald. Michael J. Murphy.

The grant and its positive impact on the programs for neighborhood youngsters at St. Catherine Parish will be the topic of a news conference today (Tuesday, June 3, 2008) at 7 p.m. at the parish, 5101 W. Center St. Ald. Murphy, a St. Catherine alum, will be joined at the news conference by Safe & Sound Milwaukee director Barbara Notestein, and St. Catherine volunteer coordinator Mark Peters. Media coverage is invited.

Alderman Murphy said the grant money means about 100 youngsters will be allowed to keep accessing the recreational and educational amenities offered at St. Catherine this summer as the parish becomes a Safe & Sound Safe Place. "Of course I'm grateful to Safe & Sound for the grant, but I'm also grateful to St. Catherine and to the Betty Brinn Foundation for their commitment to our city and to keeping kids active and out of trouble," he said.

Rick Wiederhold, president of the Betty Brinn Foundation, said he saw the positive benefit to the St. Catherine/Safe and Sound after school programming and wanted to help it continue. "The Betty Brinn Foundation is fortunate to be in a position to support positive activities for the youth of our community," he said.

Barb Notestein, executive director of Safe & Sound, said Safe & Sound's mission is to reduce crime and violence in Milwaukee and that's central to its collaboration with St. Catherine and the Betty Brinn Foundation.

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Grant Helps Keeps Kids Busy/ADD ONE

“To offer Safe Places for youth that will prevent youth violence and build youth leadership skills we partner with other organizations, and Safe & Sound is grateful to our board member Rick Wiederhold and the Betty Brinn Foundation for support of our new partnership and contract with St. Catherine Church,” Notestein said.

Mark Peters, a St. Catherine parishioner who developed the grant proposal, said he’s pleased and hopeful the money will bear fruit. “We’ve got the gym, we’ve got the leadership, we’ve got the young men, and now we’ve got the money, but there’s still one vital element we need -- adult volunteers,” he said, emphasizing that as volunteer coordinator he’s trying to fill 200 time slots over nine weeks.

Peters said prospective volunteers don’t have to be athletic or know basketball. “They just must enjoy working with young people and be willing to help keep things running smoothly,” he said.

The church is looking for volunteers willing to work a minimum two-hour shift. Anyone 18 or older who is interested is asked to call Peters at 414-963-0779.

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