Youth In Need to Honor Three Community Leaders at 23rd Annual Celebration of Youth

Youth In Need will honor Virginia Boschert and Charlaine and Frank Martinez at its 23rd annual Celebration of Youth dinner and auction on Saturday, March 20, at the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa. The three honorees are long-time champions for children and families, Youth In Need supporters and active St. Charles County residents. Grant Alexander Executive Search, Mary and Rick Leach, SSM St. Joseph Health Center, Thrivent Financial for Luthernians and Paul and Gwen Middeke are among Celebration of Youth’s lead sponsors.

"Virginia Boschert and Frank and Charlaine Martinez are all remarkable examples of people with big hearts who celebrate their longevity by generously sharing their blessings," said Jim Braun, Youth In Need’s President and CEO. "They have been among Youth In Need’s earliest contributors to the agency’s emerging endowment fund, ensuring that generations of children and families facing adversity will receive help from Youth In Need. We are thrilled to be able to honor them for their life-long commitment to children and families at the 2010 Celebration of Youth."

Reserved sponsorship, advertisement and ticket opportunities by March 15. For information, call 636-757-9346 or visit online at www.youthinnedd.org.

Youth In Need, a proud member of the United Way, is an eastern Missouri regional agency serving more than 10,000 children, teens and families each year with residential group homes, homeless street outreach, education, counseling and support groups, foster care case management and infant, child and family development programs. Youth In Need’s mission: Believing in the power of potential, Youth In Need’s mission is to provide nurturing environments and educational opportunities so children, youth, and families will find safety and hope, achieve their goals, and build a positive future. Youth In Need’s programs and services are funded, in part, by its 2010 Children’s Partners, including Monsanto as the exclusive Principal Partner.

The Easter Bunny will make a special visit to St. Charles County’s Youth Activity Park on Saturday, April 3. With thousands of candy-filled eggs hidden throughout the 25-acre facility, participants are sure to enjoy a hopping good time at the 5th Annual YAP Easter Egg Hunt. For just $5 per child, the YAP Easter Egg Hunt offers a host of fun activities. To make the search safer and easier for all participants, separate egg hunts are planned for toddlers 3 and under (10:15 a.m.), kids ages 4-6 (11 a.m.), and those 7-12 (11:45 a.m.). At the conclusion of the egg hunts, the fun-filled day will also present egg-themed games for kids and their families. As a take-home gift, the Easter Bunny will be available for photos with participants throughout the event.

Each hunt is limited to the first 100 participants, so advanced registration is required. At least one adult guardian must accompany park guests under the age of 12 at the event. However, only one person may assist toddlers (under 3) on their search, and those in the 4-6 and 7-12 age categories must hunt without assistance. Participants must bring their own baskets to collect eggs during the hunt. To register, please visit www.stccparks.org or call 636-949-7535 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily.

Designed to offer recreational opportunities focused at St. Charles County youth, the Youth Activity Park is located at 7801 Highway N in Dardenne Prairie, less than one mile west of Bryan Road. Among the YAP’s many amenities are the 33,000 square-foot skate park, indoor and outdoor rock climbing walls, sand volleyball and basketball courts, an indoor recreation center with a video game and table tennis nook, a one-mile paved walking trail, and open play fields. For information on the unique facility, please call 636-561-4966.

The district will be conducting the March, 2010 endowment campaign. Ticket opportunities by March 15. For information, call 636-757-9346 or visit online at www.youthinnedd.org.