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NEWS RELEASE

(For release June 29, 2009)

The Kitchen, Inc. Receives Junior League Grant

The Kitchen, Inc. has been awarded a \$10,000 challenge grant from the Junior League of Springfield to establish and operate the Project Safe Place Springfield program in Springfield, MO. The Junior League of Springfield will match dollar for dollar funds raised by The Kitchen to a maximum of \$10,000 to support children and youth in Springfield.

Safe Place Springfield will be the first step to help for any young person in crisis and will provide access to immediate safety, help, and supportive resources for young people, ages 10-18. Beginning in August, Safe Place services will be accessed by young people, conveniently in their own neighborhoods, through a network of designated Safe Place sites, such as public and private agency or business locations, displaying the distinctive yellow and black Safe Place sign.

The Kitchen's Rare Breed Youth Services will operate the Safe Place program with Boys & Girls Town of Missouri as a primary service partner and with City Utilities, Springfield-Greene County Library, Springfield Fire Department, Springfield Public Schools, Ozarks Regional YMCA, and QuikTrip as primary community partners.

"Project Safe Place Springfield will fill a need in our community and is an exciting way for the Junior League of Springfield to commemorate its 50th anniversary year. The Junior League salutes the leadership efforts on behalf of The Kitchen staff, volunteers and donors for making this vision a reality," said Andrea McKinney, President of the Junior League of Springfield.

"The Junior League of Springfield has a long and successful history of supporting children and youth in the community. We are very proud of the Junior League's commitment to the safety of our kids and honored to have the Safe Place Springfield program implemented as a result of this challenge grant," said Todd Duncan, Coordinator of Youth Services for The Kitchen.

Safe Place is a twenty-five year old nationally recognized program that serves nearly 1,500 communities across the country. More than 250,000 youth nationally have received help through Safe Place since the program's inception in 1983. Additional information can be found at www.nationalsafeplace.org. For more information, contact Todd Duncan at 865-6400.



<http://www.jlspringfield.org>



www.thekitcheninc.org



www.therarebreed.com

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