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Progressive Youth
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Help University City Elementary School and receive Tax Credits

St. Louis, MO- April 6, 2009: The Missouri Department of Economic Development approved Progressive Youth Connection for **\$27,142** in **Youth Opportunities Program** state tax credits to eligible donors who make a qualifying donation to PYC for the CHARACTERplus® - Count to Ten collaboration.

Administered by the state of Missouri Department of Economic Development, Y.O.P. is designed to broaden and strengthen opportunities for positive development in community life for youth, and to discourage criminal and violent behavior.

Progressive Youth Connection is collaborating with CHARACTERplus®, to provide a school-wide reform program to the entire Barbara Jordan Elementary School (K-6th grade) community located in University City School District. Progressive Youth Connection's Count to Ten program focuses on anger management and character education, while the educators receive in-depth training and resources to help create a caring school community from CHARACTERplus®.

Recently, the school did not meet its average yearly progress through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and is working with the Regional Professional Development Center of St. Louis to improve their academic status. This lack of progress demonstrates the vital need for this collaborative initiative.

The collaboration focuses on developing life skills to combat poor choices that could eventually lead to delinquency. The 60-minute risk prevention activities for students administered by PYC master level social workers focus on Anger management and the various components to effectively recognizing and resolving anger. CHARACTERplus would work with school staff to successfully implement a research-based effective character education plan, focusing on school-wide activities to improve autonomy, belonging, and competence.

Donors to PYC will receive a tax credit equal to **50 percent** of their contribution amount, beyond the standard deduction they are already entitled to. The deadline to participate in this tax credit program is March 31, 2010. Tax credits will apply to donors 2009 or 2010 tax returns.

For over 36 years, Progressive Youth Connection (PYC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency, has been creating strong communities. PYC helps children learn how to keep themselves safe and deal with daily life situations by providing violence prevention and character education curricula for youth ages 5-18, as well as training for parents and teachers. CHARACTERplus, a 21-year old initiative of Cooperating School Districts, works to develop positive character traits in young people by providing a high quality character education process and resources to schools, homes, and communities. For more information about PYC and our programs, please call (314) 963-8368 or visit us online at www.pyconline.com.

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