



PRESS RELEASE

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DONATIONS DRIVE NCENTER CONSTRUCTION!

ROCKFORD – June 6, 2008- Mayor Larry Morrissey today extended his personal thanks to the many volunteers and donators that have been laboring to continue the transformation of the dated Millennium Center to the nCenter, a one-stop shop of educational, recreational, and enrichment programming for High School age teens.

As stated by Mayor Morrissey:

I have to say I am overwhelmed with the level of generosity that has been such an integral part of the nCenter project. This is a project that started on the drawing table of the Mayor's Youth Summit of 2007. The members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) picked up the concept and worked with Adam Smith to bring the concept to design and then to construction. But what has been key in making this concept a reality has been the many hours of donated time, materials, and talent on the parts of our trades, our local vendors, and the business community as a whole.

The reconstruction of the Millennium Center has been driven by Rockford region trade unions. It is estimated that at the completion of the project, more than 5000 hours of professional grade trade work will have been completed. The skills and expertise of union members from Carpenter's Local 792; Painter's Local 607; Laborers Local 32; Iron Workers Local 498; IBEW Local 364; Roofers Local 11; Sheet Metal Workers Local 219; Glaziers Local 1355; Bricklayers Local 6; and Plumber's & Pipefitters Local 23 will allow the nCenter to have a polished, professional look at its

completion. All trades are part of the Northwestern Illinois Building & Construction Trade Council. Supporting the trades has been donations of time and materials from contractors, Norstar, Wilson Electric, and Nova Painting.

With work that ranges across all professions, the nCenter has been designed to have the urban appeal area teens crave. “We have been extremely lucky to have Gary Anderson donate his talents as architect and lead designer,” pointed out Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Adam Smith. “Gary has also contributed his time to manage the project and is working to ensure that every detail, down to which materials we use, have been appropriately selected,” Smith explained.

An added compliment to the skills of the professional trades and Architect Anderson, has been the Northern Illinois Building Contractor’s Association (NIBCA) donation of a full time construction manager to the project. The NIBCA Project Manager keeps daily work schedules on time, negotiates best pricing for materials, and acts as the overall construction coordinator.

“From top to bottom, this is a community led venture. With sandwiches donated to feed the volunteers everyday from Atlanta Bread Company, to audiovisual equipment, carpeting, appliances, the support for this project has been amazing.” said Mayor Morrissey.

Additional contributors to the nCenter project include:

- ◆ Supply Core: Flooring
- ◆ ValSpar: Approximately \$20,000 in paint.
- ◆ Heartland Community Church: Fitness equipment
- ◆ MYAC: Painting, cleaning, assisting in the project.
- ◆ Phil Vecchio from Vecchio: Signage
- ◆ Von’s Pool Table: Pool Table
- ◆ First Northern Credit Union, United Way
- ◆ Gloyd Family
- ◆ Rockford Area Association of Realtors
- ◆ Worker’s Investment Board
- ◆ Rockford Park District,
- ◆ Amcore
- ◆ Community Foundation of Northern Illinois
- ◆ Comcast
- ◆ Rockford Board of Education
- ◆ RMTD
- ◆ Rock River Disposal

◆ The Salvation Army

“When I look at the leaders in the community that have taken up the reins of this project, I have to thank Glen Turpoff, Executive Director of NIBCA; Brad Long: President of Northern Illinois Trades Council; John Penney: President of the Painter’s Union and Tom Del Santo: President of the Labor’s Union for stepping up to the challenge and making nCenter a reality. This is what community partnership is all about: this is what brings us Excellence Everywhere for Everyone.” concluded Mayor Morrissey.

Programmers for the nCenter include Rockford Park District, District 205, YMCA of Rock River Valley, Swedish American Hospital, The Salvation Army, Rockford Public Library, YWCA, Junior Achievement, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, and nFACTOR.

The nCenter will be open for all teens entering High School this fall and will have summer hours from 1:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. and after school hours from 4:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m. and is free of charge.

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