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## **Arts Pilot Program Encourages After-School Involvement *Central Middle School to Thank Congressman Moore for Support***

Kansas City, Kansas (October 19, 2006) – Central Middle School students now have a positive alternative to after-school free time – arts workshops on fun themes such as hip hop, poetry and choir. The workshops are part of a new youth arts pilot program called the CSI Youth Program developed by CHWC, Inc., a nonprofit community development organization. It is made possible through a \$150,000 grant from the Department of Justice Wyandotte County thanks to U.S. Representative Dennis Moore.

**A student assembly to announce the program and thank Congressman Moore for his support will be held Wed., Oct. 25 at 10 a.m., at Central Middle School, 925 Ivandale Road in Kansas City, Kan.**

"Students who attend after-school programs stay out of trouble, have higher self confidence and academic performance, and develop better social skills," said Congressman Dennis Moore. "The after-school programs that this funding will help develop will benefit our community by engaging students in activities that teach them valuable skills and that help them build relationships with responsible, caring adults."

CHWC is partnering with the Kansas City, Kansas School District's In the Zone program and Kansas City Young Audiences to provide choral music, hip hop dancing, poetry and other multi-discipline arts activities on Wednesday afternoons during the fall semester. The seven-week program is designed to introduce students to the wide world of arts and inspire them to seek out meaningful activities rather than experimenting with drugs, crime and gangs.

"We would like to express our gratitude to Congressman Moore for his continued support of youth and safety programs in urban areas of Kansas City, Kansas," said Michael Avery, CHWC Executive Director. "In many of the neighborhoods where we work, quality youth activities are a key component of improving neighborhood safety and stability."

Initially, the grant will be used to provide workshops and materials, student transportation and administrative services. Plans are being made to expand the program next semester to a parochial school in Kansas City, Kan.

“The CSI Youth Program has the potential of making a significant impact on a student’s life,” said Kristine Ludwig, Central Middle School Principal. “This type of quality youth programming not only enhances our educational efforts but opens new doors of opportunity for youth who would otherwise not experience the arts.”

The arts program is part of the Community Safety Initiative (CSI) originally sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Local Initiatives Corporation. CSI brings together the crime control efforts with the capacity of community development corporations. The program leverages these efforts with those of a variety of stakeholders and other resources to reduce persistent crime, disorder and fear and to revitalize the neighborhoods.

Started in 1998, CHWC, Inc. is a nonprofit community development corporation that works to stabilize, revitalize and reinvest in Kansas City, Kan., neighborhoods through affordable housing opportunities and other related development. CHWC, a charter member of NeighborWorks, has grown to become one of the largest nonprofit producers of single-family housing in the metro, achieving recognition as a premier community development corporation in Greater Kansas City. CHWC also promotes economic development, supports minor home repair efforts for low-income homeowners, provides lending assistance and homeowner education, and other community organizing activities. For more information about CHWC Inc., visit our website at [www.chwconline.com](http://www.chwconline.com).

Kansas City Young Audiences (KCYA), celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, has provided excellent educational artistic programs in Kansas City Area schools since 1961. KCYA serves more than 200,000 young people annual through in-school programming, the management of the Arts Partners program and the Community School of the Arts.

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