



PRESS RELEASE

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BALTIMORE CITY RECREATION CENTER TO RECEIVE MAKE OVER FROM UNITED WAY CORPORATE PARTNERS

Employees from Local Firms Will Roll Up Their Sleeves for Medfield Recreation Center Facelift

BALTIMORE (Sept. 28, 2009)--- On Tuesday, September 29, United Way, six corporate partners, Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks and the Baltimore Ravens will descend on the City's Medfield Recreation Center.

The center is located at 1501 Woodheights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21211

At 8:00 a.m. volunteers from companies that support United Way will arrive at the building with paint brushes, saws and hammers to give the center's lobby and five rooms a face-lift. The teams will work hard to transform the space into a more welcoming place for kids by painting, providing technology, books, educational tools, supplies and more. Teams will work in a different room and will have until 4:30 p.m. to finish the job. Each gets the help of one Baltimore Raven player. At the end of the day, rooms will be judged to see which team did the best job. Mayor Sheila Dixon will serve as one of the judges.

"At Recreation and Parks our goal is to ensure families engage in quality recreational activities. Part of that includes providing a safe and appealing environment for the community," said Wanda Durden, Director of Recreation and Parks. "Partnerships are crucial to achieving that goal. This is an example of a public/private partnership done right."

"This recreation center is wonderful example of how we can still make investments in our children and progress moving forward despite the economic times," stated Mayor Sheila Dixon. "I want to thank the United Way, the Recreation and Parks Department, and all the businesses and volunteers for their selfless effort to greatly improve our community today and into the future."

This is the fourth annual United Way Share Yourself Makeover Challenge. Press is invited to attend.

The companies taking part and the rooms they are working in are:

- Greater Baltimore Medical Center – kitchen and office
- Sinai Hospital – lobby and patio
- KCI Technologies, Inc. - gym
- Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. – homework room
- M&T Bank – game room
- PNC Bank – arts and crafts room

Each company donates \$2,000 and it is put on a gift card for teams to shop for supplies for the rooms.

Partners and sponsors for the event are:
Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks
The Baltimore Ravens
Arris, a Design Studio, Inc.
Sherwin-Williams
Medfield Heights Recreation Center staff
Baltimore City Department of General Services

About Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks

The Department of Recreation and Parks currently operates 57 recreation centers throughout Baltimore offering a wide assortment of programming including after-school care, computer training, dance, mentoring and organized sports. The mission is to maximize the use of resources to deliver diverse recreational, environmental, cultural and educational opportunities that benefit both current and future generations.

About United Way of Central Maryland

For more than 80 years, United Way of Central Maryland (UWCM) has been the region's human service leader. Its mission is to improve people's lives by mobilizing the caring power of our communities. UWCM supports programs and initiatives in the city of Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. UWCM is dedicated to education, income and health - making sure children get the early child care they need to succeed in school, that young adults graduate, that families have the means to access affordable and stable housing and that people are free from violence and abuse at home. By encouraging all people in central Maryland to give, advocate or volunteer, UWCM wants to show the power of living united. It's about connecting people and creating communities. For more information, visit www.uwcm.org or call 410.547.8000.

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