

News Release



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Contact:
Warren E. Goodell
248-796-4190
wegoodell@scfmi.org

Southfield Youth Center Capital Campaign Nears Goal

The United Way of Southeastern Michigan recently approved a grant of \$250,000 to the Southfield Community Foundation's **Youth Center Capital Campaign**. "This gift brings the campaign to nearly 90% of its goal" said Foundation Executive Director, Warren Goodell. "We have sufficient commitments now to complete renovations and operate for at least a year."

Carmen Thomas, Program Director, United Way of Southeastern Michigan says, "We are very excited to be a part of Southfield's first youth center. The kids really deserve it." The United Way has recently prioritized their giving to youth services in the Metropolitan Detroit area and approved the funding at the March 26, 2008 Board of Trustees meeting.

The Youth Center is a project of the Foundation and its Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). "Our youth have had an integral role in all aspects of the planning for the Center," said Scott Griffin, trustee of the Foundation and Chair of *Southfield Centers For Youth*, an independent nonprofit developed by the Foundation to oversee the development and operation of the Youth Center. With the major portion of funding assured, Griffin anticipates that construction will begin shortly and that the Center will be ready to open in June, just before the end of the school year.

The Center, to be named the Field Zone, will provide unique, fun programming for middle and high school students while providing parents with the peace of mind that their children have access to a safe, supervised environment during the hours after school and while some parents are at work. "We believe that the Field Zone will be an attractive addition to our great schools, outstanding Parks and Recreation programs, and fantastic Library" said Goodell.

The Foundation is hoping to complete the campaign through a grass-roots effort targeted at Southfield and Lathrup Village residences and businesses. "We are exploring the possibility of a challenge grant to help us develop a large number of individual and small business donors from our own community," said Goodell. "Anyone interested in donating can contact the Foundation at 248-796-4190."

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Also Contact: **Carmen Thomas**, Program Director, United Way of Southeastern MI
Phone: 313-226-9308 Email: carmen.thomas@uwsem.org

Scott Griffin, Chair, Southfield Centers for Youth, Incl.
Phone: 248-443-9000 Email: sgriffin@griffinproperties.com