



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Adam A. Smith

Director of Education & Life-Long Learning

June 2, 2008

Phone: 815-987-5590

E-mail: adam.smith@rockfordil.gov

*nCENTER Remodeling Project Progressing on Time
Thanks to Local Labor Unions and Building Contractors*

ROCKFORD – The nCENTER, the community’s first one-stop-shop of enrichment, educational and recreational programming for high school teens is progressing toward its June 16, 2008 remodeling completion date. The nCENTER is located at 220 S. Madison and will remodel a building that was once the YWCA, Boys and Girls Club and Salvation Army Millennium Center into a campus of safe and positive programs and services just for high school aged youth.

The Northern Illinois Building Trades (Carpenters, Laborers, Painters & Glazers, Electricians, Plumbers, Bricklayers) have donated thousands of hours of free labor that has helped drive the project toward a completion date. The Northern Illinois Building Trades Council has donated the cost of a Full-Time Construction Manager and is working with all vendors to reduce the cost of supplies and materials.

“We would like to again acknowledge the commitment and sacrifice of the Building Trades and Building Contractors. These men have volunteered thousands of hours thus far and will donate thousands more before the nCENTER is complete. During these challenge economic times it is invigorating to see these men giving selflessly during their days, evenings and weekends to better the lives of all our community’s youth. We cannot thank them enough for their commitment to our community, its young people and their sacrifice to ensure a safe and positive Rockford for thousands of teens,” stated Adam Smith Director of the Mayor’s Office of Education and Life-Long Learning.

The nCENTER Campus is a critical solution to the challenge that inactive youth brings upon our community. Last summer there were 1,200 teens that were arrested for our victims of violent crime and since January 1, 2008, there have been over 1,600 teens arrested for or victims of violent crime after-school. The facility will bring together programs that were once fragmented citywide in a menu of choices of daily programs provided by partners such as the Rockford Park District, Rockford Public Library, Salvation Army, Rockford Public School District, Swedish American Hospital, Junior Achievement, YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Rockford Art Museum and more.

nCENTER will open June 16, 2008 with both indoor and outdoor programs for youth ages 14-18 years daily during the summer from 1:00-10:00 p.m. M-TH and 1:00-11:00 p.m. Fridays. The nCENTER will also serve as a one-stop after-school program site proving a place for teens to come and be positively engaged every day after-school during the 2008-2009 school year from 4:00-10:00 p.m.

When completed. The nCENTER will include a full fitness center, indoor pool, coffee house, internet café, multi-media center, arts center, wireless internet service, outdoor pavilion, gymnasium, theater, game room, meeting rooms and full park for recreational programs provided in partnership with the Rockford Park District.

The nCENTER is looking for more donations of time, energy and resources to ensure the facility opens by June 16 and is successful for our teens. **To find out more or support nCENTER call 815-969-7408 or visit www.the-n-factor.com**

###