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The Opportunity Project Receives \$10,000 in Food Bank Credit From Cargill Cares

Funds will offset escalating food costs for nearly 400 low-income children.

WICHITA, Kan., July 23, 2009 – The Opportunity Project (TOP) Early Learning Centers have been presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 from Cargill Cares. This money will be used to purchase food for the Centers from the Kansas Food Bank. Each weekday, nearly 400 low-income children receive two meals and a snack as part of their Early Education Program at either The TOP Early Learning Center north or south location.

“This gift is greatly appreciated, especially in light of escalating food costs. The money generated in the past couple of years through our multiple funders is no longer sufficient to keep up with these costs. Cargill’s contribution will make a significant difference in our ability to continue to provide nutritious meals to the low-income children we serve, helping them to maintain healthy lives,” said Janice Smith, executive director of TOP schools. “For many of these children, the only quality meals they receive during the day are those provided at the TOP Learning Centers.”

Support from businesses like Cargill demonstrates that the corporate community cares about issues like the importance of nutrition to the learning of children. “Cargill is committed to being a global leader in nourishing people in communities where we do business, said Cargill Chairman and CEO Greg Page.

Cargill is an international producer and marketer of food, agricultural, financial and industrial products and services. Founded in 1865, the privately held company employs 160,000 people in 67 countries. Cargill helps customers succeed through collaboration and innovation, and is committed to applying its global knowledge and experience to help meet economic, environmental and social challenges wherever it does business. For more information, visit www.cargill.com.

TOP is a 501c(3) charity based in Wichita, Kansas. TOP Early Learning Centers provide educational day care and preschool in some of Wichita’s poorest areas; Oaklawn and north central Wichita. Dedicated to creating school readiness for at-risk children, TOP’s mission is to improve life outcomes for Kansas’ children in poverty and to collaborate with educators elsewhere to improve early education for all children living in poverty.

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