



Springboard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local students provide warmth and give back one hat at a time

Marian Middle schoolers kick off the Red Thread Project[®]; money for program from grant

ST. LOUIS, MO December 17, 2009 –Hats off to the young women of Marian Middle School (4130 Wyoming) who will spend the morning on **Friday, December 18, 2009** knitting hats from **9:00 am - 11:00 am** in their auditorium. The hat knitting is part of the Red Thread Project[®] which was created by professional artist Lindsey Obermeyer and is presented by Springboard. The Red Thread Project[®] is based on a Chinese proverb that describes how an invisible red thread connects us all. Eighth grade girls will pair up with fifth grade girls to work together to make the hats as a school wide effort.

Over 300 students in four area schools will learn a simple knitting technique to create colorful handmade hats through the Red Thread Project[®]. In the spring after the hats are complete, professional artist and creator of the Red Thread Project[®] Lindsey Obermeyer will join the hats with lengths of knitted red thread for a performance art event. While wearing the hats, participants will be led through a series of simple movements done in unison while connected to others. Afterwards, the hats are disconnected and in a cooperative spirit, given to local charities chosen by the participating students.

Springboard received a \$10,000 *Kresge Arts in St. Louis* grant- a partnership of the Kresge

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Foundation, the Arts and Education Council and the Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation for this program.

Please call Cory Smallwood at 314-289-4128 or Andrea Sykes at 314-771-7674 for more information about this event. All members of the media are welcome to stop by...GREAT

VISUALS!

About Springboard:

The mission of Springboard is to provide programs in the arts, cultures, humanities, and sciences to schools and community organizations. These programs inspire their audiences to embrace knowledge and new experiences that broaden their horizons. Springboard is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that offers more than 177 unique educational programs to around 78,000 students in the St. Louis region.

About Marian Middle School:

Marian Middle School is a not-for-profit Catholic school for girls in grades 5 through 8. Located in the City of St. Louis, their mission is "to foster the academic, emotional, spiritual, and physical development of economically disadvantaged adolescent girls of all religious, racial and ethnic backgrounds through a full range of educational settings." Visit them online at marianmiddleschool.org