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**City of Duluth Communications Office**

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**DATE: 04/07/2010**

**SUBJECT: Mayor Ness proclaims April 8 Community Development Day**

**BY: Pakou Ly**

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## **Mayor Ness proclaims April 8 Community Development Day**

The public is invited to join Mayor Don Ness and community members as they celebrate Community Development Day on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 1:00 PM in the Central Hillside Community Center.

The event recognizes the Community Development Block Grant program which has been in existence since 1975 and has provided local governments with resources to address the needs of individuals and households with low and moderate income. From 2005 to 2009, Duluth received over \$14.6 million in CDBG funds for housing, public services, economic development, and improvements to public facilities.

“CDBG funds create a lasting impact in communities across the country,” says Keith Hamre, the City’s Community Development Manager. “CDBG is critical to community sustainability, job development, and improving the local tax base by funding programs that are aimed at helping individuals and families bridge the economic gap and move towards long term prosperity.”

CDBG funds have positively impacted thousands of Duluth residents in various neighborhoods throughout the city. Over the past five years, CDBG funds have resulted in 91 homes being constructed for individuals with disabilities, 88 families purchased affordable single family homes, 114 individuals received employment assistance (72% of whom are currently employed), 26 small businesses received technical assistance, five neighborhood facilities have been improved, 153 accessible sidewalks were installed, 2800 homeless youth received services, 8500 youth received after school programming, and about 1000 people received heating assistance. These are just a few examples of the local impact of the Community Development Block Grant.

To learn more, please contact the Community Development office at 730-5480.

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