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**City of Duluth Communications Office**

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**DATE: 04/10/2012**

**SUBJECT: Mayor Ness to Proclaim April 12 "Community Development Day"**

**BY: Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator**

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## **Mayor Ness to proclaim April 12 "Community Development Day"**

[Duluth, MN] - Mayor Don Ness will proclaim Thursday, April 12, 2012 Community Development Day at a public event at 10:30 am at the Memorial Community Center, located at Laura MacArthur Elementary School, 720 North Central Avenue. The event is free and open to the public.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has been in existence since 1975 and has provided local governments with resources to address the needs of persons with low and moderate income. In the city of Duluth, CDBG funds have helped in the areas of housing, public services, economic development, and public facilities. From 2005 through 2011 the City of Duluth received \$20,769, 238 in CDBG funds, which were used to leverage additional funds from other federal programs, foundations, self-generated fees, donations, and private donors for a total investment of \$110,181,039 into the city of Duluth.

The CDBG funds have been used to assist 656 property owners in rehabilitating their homes, build 91 housing units for individuals with disabilities, provided health services for 30,498 individuals, provided 72,341 meals to persons who are homeless, constructed 9,177 feet of accessible sidewalks, assisted a number of small businesses and provided employment opportunities. In addition, the CDBG program is a successful economic engine for the city by fueling job creation and retention.

“The CDBG funds create a lasting impact in communities across the country as well as here in Duluth,” says Keith Hamre, the City’s Community Development Manager. CDBG funds are critical to community sustainability, job development, and improving the local tax base. CDBG funded programs are aimed at helping individuals and families bridge the economic gap and bring them one step closer to long term prosperity.

