



150 Volunteers Tackle *Care For Kids* School Makeover Project at Reeds Spring Schools January 22

(Reeds Spring, Mo. 1/22/11) More than 150 volunteers took paint and brushes and added a brighter look to three Reeds Spring Schools on Saturday, January 22, part of a *Care For Kids* school makeover project – an annual project of the Silver Dollar City Foundation’s program to meet the needs of kids in area schools.

Volunteers spent the day painting doors, door frames, break rooms and lobby areas in the school’s colors at the primary, intermediate and middle schools. Paint, brushes, drop cloths and supplies, as well as breakfast, lunch and snacks, were provided by the Foundation.

The kids noticed the change right away, said Steve Verheyen, Director of Operations for Reeds Spring Schools. “The reaction was phenomenal,” he said. “It just looks so much cleaner and everybody is excited. That painting project literally would have been a two-year process for us because we don’t have the manpower.”

This is the fourth year *Care For Kids* has taken on a school rehab project, working at Hollister Elementary, Galena Elementary and Spokane Elementary in previous years.

Care For Kids partners with school districts serving Stone and Taney counties and area youth ministries to meet the needs of kids, committing more than half a million dollars over 5 years. The program addresses physical needs, providing kids in need with items from coats to wheelchairs.

Care For Kids also addresses the mental and emotional needs of kids through in-school mentoring programs, where volunteers spend time with kids in need of extra help and encouragement. Programs include “Lunch Buddies”, when volunteers have lunch with a child, and “Book Buddies” when volunteers read to kids, as well as tutoring.

You can become a volunteer mentor for your area school, committing to as little as 20 minutes each week. Anyone interested in becoming a *Care For Kids* volunteer mentor for the 2010/2011 school year should call SDC Foundation President John Baltes at 417-336-7077. More information about *Care For Kids* is on the website,

www.silverdollarcityfoundation.com.

