



News Release: SF's St. James Unveils Plans at Nov. 18th "Neighborhood Nouveau" for Landmark New Community Center

27 October 2006 – San Francisco, CA: It is said “build it and they will come.” Paraphrased a bit: build it for a cause, serve glorious wine and they will come in droves! So is the hope and expectation for the first “Neighborhood Nouveau” gathering to be held at St. James Episcopal Church (www.stjamessf.org) on Saturday, November 18 from 4pm ‘til 7pm (4620 California Street at 9th Avenue). The “building” is more than metaphor, for the historic Episcopal congregation, at its Richmond District location since 1890, is unveiling equally historic plans for a new multi-use resource for the entire district. Scheduled to open in 2009, the new Community Center at St. James will be a partnership between three respected organizations dedicated to serving the Richmond District community -- St. James Preschool, the Community Learning Center at St. James and St. James Church. The trinity of nonprofits aims to raise \$4.3 million dollars for the new center, designed by the San Francisco architectural firm, Oculus, Inc.



“What better way to unveil the plans and designs for our new community center than with the launch of this year’s Beaujolais Nouveau,” said the Reverend Mary Moore Gaines, Rector, St. James Episcopal Church. “This is a true neighborhood collaboration. Our vision is to build a community center for the entire Richmond District community. This new center will include a larger preschool, programs serving children, youth, adults and elders and space for St. James Church offices. This new Center aims to meet the growing demands of our various neighborhood groups and will reflect the changing nature and unique needs of the Richmond.”

Timed to celebrate the release of this year’s Beaujolais Nouveau, “Neighborhood Nouveau” is open to the public. Wine for the event is being donated by The Village Market, a cross-street neighbor of St. James, and also Blackwells Wines and Spirits on Geary Boulevard and Wine Impressions in Laurel Village. The event will bring together St. James congregation members, St. James Preschool families, neighbors and civic and community leaders to enjoy wine, light appetizers and music in their first chance to view the design and

plans for the new building. Free parking is available at the George Peabody Elementary School (7th Avenue and Clement) and childcare will be provided. The entry fee to the Neighborhood Nouveau is a suggested donation of \$10.

The new Community Center at St. James will rise four stories, harmonizing architecturally and in size with the adjacent St. James Church as well as with other structures on the block. The new 11,400 square foot, ADA compliant building will house classrooms, an expanded preschool, a nursery, offices and community program space.

“Communities don’t just happen,” continues Reverend Gaines. “We create them, acting with intention to connect with each other for the greater good of the whole community. A recent assessment of the Richmond District identified four areas as top priorities where the St. James Partners can make a big difference: more preschool spaces, affordable after-school programs for elementary school children, activities for youth, and more services for elders. This new Community Center is the way we will meet that demand. Our mission at St. James is to serve all people, and the mission of the Center will be the same. Our philosophy and our programs are radically inclusive.”

Since 1890, St. James Church has consistently offered its facilities for community use. Since 1963, the St. James Preschool, an independent, nondenominational preschool (and the principal community service program of St. James Church), has been nurturing the minds, bodies and spirits of young children to prepare them to be thoughtful citizens in a diverse world. Since 2004, the nonprofit Community Learning Center at St. James has been a magnet of learning, offering educational programs to nurture the bodies, minds and spirits of children, youth, and adults in the diverse Richmond District. For more information please call the Community Learning Center at St. James at (415) 751-1199 or go online to www.stjamesf.org.

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