

# The Church of Saint John the Evangelist

11 SOUTHWEST FOURTH AVENUE  
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA 55902

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## St. John Block Party/Rock Against Cancer Announce Charitable Donation November 15, 2007 – For Immediate Release

Rochester soon will be offering music therapy for children at Mayo Eugenio Litta Children's Hospital through collaborative support from the St. John's Block Party and Rock Against Cancer, a nonprofit organization providing music therapy programs at several U.S. children's hospitals. Combined, they are providing \$20,000 for this effort, \$10,000 each from the two organizations.

Lisa L. White, Ph.D., the Founder of Rock Against Cancer, commented on similar efforts throughout the country. "Young cancer patients are isolated from friends and enduring chemotherapy and painful procedures on a daily basis. Music therapy aids in the recovery of the 'whole child' by helping kids cope with anxiety, pain and isolation. How fortunate the people of Rochester and Mayo Clinic are to have a community partnership with the St. John Block Party."

Support for the Rochester initiative evolved this summer when Block Party organizers Kurt and Kathy Augustine contacted Rock Against Cancer, which is funded in part by the Hot Topic Foundation, to learn more about music therapy. Together, the Augustines and Dr. White facilitated a hospital visit by Sister Hazel - the headline band from the past summer's St. John Block Party. The band is committed to "making music part of the cure". After seeing first hand the value of live music to hospitalized children, Mayo Clinic embraced the idea of offering music therapy to pediatric patients.

"We are thrilled that we are now offering music therapy interventions by a board-certified music therapist to our patients because of the generous donation by our friends from the St. John Block Party and Rock Against Cancer," says Dr. Philip Fischer, director of Mayo Eugenio Litta Children's Hospital. Randy McKeeman, child life program director at Mayo Eugenio Litta Hospital, agrees. "This will enhance the care that we give every patient every day."

Says Barbara Crowe, the past president of the American Music Therapy Association, "Music therapy can make the difference between withdrawal and awareness, between isolation and interaction, between chronic pain and comfort - between demoralization and dignity."

Church of St. John the Evangelist pastor, Rev. Msgr. Gerald Mahon says this support is a natural fit for the parish community. "We desire to reach out to and offer hospitality to all who live, work and visit Rochester with this annual event which is a celebration of music, fun and fellowship. What a wonderful way to share the generosity of those who participate and support our block party by sharing in this effort to aid the healing process through the gift of music."

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St. John Block Party Announces 2007 Proceeds Donations  
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Officials representing St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and the St. John Center Street Block Party Committee have announced plans to disburse donations totaling \$20,000 from last July's successful community event. Checks totaling \$17,500 are being distributed to seven organizations and another \$2,500 has been designated for sponsorship of upcoming Rochester Charitable Community Events and needs. This brings the total amount generated in four years of Block Party history to over \$60,000. This year's beneficiaries include the Mayo Clinic School of Rock, Good Samaritan Dental Clinic, Channel One Food Bank and Food Shelf, the Child Care Resource and Referral Crisis Nursery, Flood Disaster Relief – Beds for Children, Law Enforcement's Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics and Bear Creek Services.

*"The St. John Center Street Block Party is a wonderful example of the spirit of our parish community as together we welcome our friends and neighbors to a gathering that celebrates life through good food, good music and good friends,"* said Reverend Monsignor Gerald A. Mahon, pastor of the downtown church. *"We are grateful to all who sponsor, contribute and participate in this annual coming together of the Rochester community and beyond. We are so pleased to offer this gift of financial support to other charitable organizations as we share a desire and way to be of service to others."*

The July block party has become a signature event for the city of Rochester drawing more than 5,000 people downtown each year. The caliber of nationally known artists such as last year's Sister Hazel helps to draw fans nation-wide to the Rochester event. Partnerships with area hotels and businesses help to defray the costs associated with putting on such a large-scale event. Last year's sponsors included: Think Federal Credit Union, Creative Cuisine Company, Rochester Concrete Products, Apollo Dental Center, Merchant's Bank, Leinenkugel's Brewing Co., Miller Brewing Co., Premier Banks and Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.

More than 300 volunteers help to make the Block Party a reality working behind the scenes planning and running the actual event. The 2008 event promises to be better than ever. *"We are so excited with and pleased by the growth of the event each year through attendance and donations,"* said Kurt Augustine, co-chair of the Center Street Block Party. *"We can't wait to announce plans for the July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 party – it's our fifth year and you won't want to miss it!"*

**The Church of St. John the Evangelist is a welcoming Catholic community located in downtown Rochester, Minnesota, one block west of the Mayo Clinic.**

**The Mission of the St. John Center Street Block Party is to reach out to the larger community with music, fun and fellowship. The St. John Center Street Block Party is an event for families, seniors, singles and anyone interested in coming together for a celebration of harmony, humanity and peace.**