

**Resolution Number 64
Grace Hill Patch Project**

Whereas, the Patch Neighborhood Center is a community-based center that enlists the involvement of residents to improve neighborhood conditions. These residents are the MORE Board, "Member Organized Resource Exchange." They are the ones that make the decisions for all programs located at the Patch Center, as well as how to improve the community which they live. It serves a neighborhood bounded by Holly Hills, I-55, south city limits and the Mississippi River; and

Whereas, the Patch Center originated in 1962 with the support of the National Lead Company of St. Louis, the Great Lakes Carbon Corporation, the Ship Building and Federal Barge, Inc., Eagle Equipment Company, Sunline Company and the Banner Ironworks Company. The George A. Cappa Foundation and the Smith Foundation contributed funds. Representatives from these industries are on the Advisory Board to represent the neighbors and the community in the Patch area. It was said to be the only such center in the area sponsored by industry; and

Whereas, Grace Hill Settlement began supervising the Center's operation in February 1962. A building located at 329 East Courtois Street was opened and a pre-school program was started. At 229 East Marceau a youth program, operated by George Krupp was began, where they taught boxing to youths 14 years and older; and

Whereas, the Patch Thrift Shop was started at the 501 East Marceau location to assist with training neighbors to operate the shop and make it self supporting; and

Whereas, in 1971 GED classes began at the 329 East Courtois location. And In 1973 the Senior Program started at 7625 South Broadway; and

Whereas, on May 11, 1977 Alderman Albert Villa and Edward Renshaw, President, St. Louis Ship, participated in the dedication of the new Patch Neighborhood Center at 7915 Minnesota where it is presently located. The building was extended in 1981, 1984 and in 1997; and

Whereas, the Patch Center offers a variety of social and supportive services including ongoing training though the Neighborhood College Courses, the CO-CARE (Care Options for Children at Risk Everyday) program provides parent training to improve child care and parent skills and STAES, (System to Assure Elderly Services); and

Whereas, the Food Pantry was started in 1993 after the flood. Volunteers received special training from Operation Food Search on keeping the Food Pantry up to code. In one year alone, they assisted 1,556 families and 3,561 individuals with a variety of food items; and

Whereas, the Grace Hill/Patch Neighborhood Center has been an asset to the Community, Neighbors they serve, Volunteers, and has always followed the motto "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Now therefore be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize and honor the Patch Project and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 15th day of June, 2012 by:

Honorable Thomas Albert Villa, Alderman 11th Ward

Adopted this the 15th day of June, 2012 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen