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Education Committee Supporting New Project

The RiverBend Growth Association's Education Committee, headed by Kent Scheffel of Lewis & Clark Community College, is spearheading an initiative aimed at preparing local high school Seniors to enter the workforce. Committee members made up from representatives from the public school districts, small and large businesses and the College are planning an event for high school seniors on Wednesday, April 22nd, 2009 on the campus of Lewis & Clark.

The committee will invite Midwest area colleges, local businesses and trade organizations to participate. Students will have a chance to visit with college representatives about their programs and with businesses and trade unions about career opportunities. Questions like education needs, wage and salary information and a "day in the life" will be answered by local professionals. Nearly

1,000 students from Civic Memorial, East Alton-Wood River, Roxana and Alton High are expected to attend the all-day event.

Students will also attend a session entitled the "Real World," a presentation created by the Growth Association's Education Committee that tells students what is expected of them by their future employers. The committee is also working to engage a keynote speaker that the students will find helpful and interesting when thinking about their careers. Lunch will be provided through a grant program and transportation will be provided by each of the school districts.

The Growth Association is seeking volunteers to help with event planning and organization. Additionally, businesses will be asked to participate by providing professionals from their organizations to talk to students



A student visits with a representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 649 at a Trade Fair the Growth Association Education Committee organized. The committee is organizing an event for high school seniors that will include representatives from local businesses, trade unions and colleges.

about career opportunities. Any one interested in volunteering or participating in the event should call the Growth Association at 467-2280.

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Thank You!

Janae Hausman, Olin Community Credit Union

Ambassador of the Month - July 2008

I have been an Ambassador to the Growth Association for a little over a year and I currently serve on the New Membership and Promotions Committees. I feel it is extremely important to be involved with the community and I enjoy working with everyone in the Growth Association.

As Business Development Representative at Olin Community Credit Union, I work with our select employee groups, lead our R'Olin Goldies seniors club and organize many of our community events. Through my role, I provide area businesses with information to improve their employees' financial knowledge. I have enjoyed working with the credit union's members to help them achieve a greater level of financial security. Traveling with our seniors club is always an adventure. Whether it's the lifestyle of the Amish or the operations of a bison ranch, our group is constantly learning about new topics. I have worked in financial services for six years.

As a local resident, I am originally from Wood River and I currently reside in Bethalto with my husband, Nathan, and our twin girls, Morgan & Peyton, who just started Kindergarten. We attend Cornerstone Church where we are actively involved. I graduated from LCCC in 2006 and am currently working on my bachelor's degree. My hobbies include singing, shopping, swimming and spending time with my family.

Calendar of Events & Meetings

- 9/1 Labor Day – Office Closed
- 9/3 **New Member Orientation**, RBGA, 12:00
- 9/3 **Economic Update Networking Event**, 8:00, Alton-Wood River Sportsman's Club
- 9/4 Promotions Committee mtg, Sgt. Peppers Café, 8:30 a.m.
- 9/9 Ambassador Committee meeting, 11:45 a.m.
- 9/10 **Total Networking Luncheon**, Moonlight, 11:30 a.m.
- 9/11 Young Adults Committee meeting, Alton High School, 8:15 a.m.
- 9/15 Membership Committee meeting, 11:00 a.m.
- 9/16 "Let's Talk" on WBGZ, 10:00 a.m.
- 9/17 **Red Carpet Networking Extravaganza**, Holiday Inn, 7:30 a.m.
- 9/18 **Business After Hours, hosted by Helmkamp Construction, Lockhaven Country Club**, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Next Business Edge: Tuesday, September 23

Join the Growth Association for a presentation on **An Environmental Analysis of the I-255 Corridor**

This analysis provided the opportunity to look at the natural, cultural and historic features of the corridor in great detail. Natural resources add to "quality of life" issues and are often the unspoken requirement in promoting economic development. By embracing our county's natural resources and using them in a way to add to a development – everyone wins.

Wednesday, September 3, 2008
 Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club

3109 Godfrey Road, Godfrey
 8:00 a.m.

\$10.00 per person
 (includes breakfast)

A reservation must be made to attend this event.

618-467-2290
 24-hour reservation line

Growth Association Staff

Monica Bristow, President
 Joell Aguirre, Director of Member Services
 Jan Strickland, Office Manager
 Debbie Hagen, Research/Publications Manager
 Jessica Droste, Receptionist
 Hayley Buehnerkemper, Economic Development Asst.

**August 2008 Small Business of the Month Winner
Jim Murphy's Lawn & Landscaping**

Congratulations to Jim Murphy and his staff at Jim Murphy's Lawn & Landscaping. He is the River Bend Growth Association's Small Business of the Month winner for August 2008!

Jim Murphy's Lawn & Landscaping has been in business for 27 years. Jim and his staff offer lawn, landscaping and power washing services to the RiverBend community. Deck washing and staining are two other services added to Jim's services. For more information regarding Jim Murphy's Lawn & Landscaping services, please call 618-977-6970.

If you would like to nominate a business for The River Bend Growth Association's Small Business of the Month, please fill out the form below

and mail it to The River Bend Growth Association, 5800 Godfrey Road, Alden Hall, Godfrey, IL 62035.

For more information regarding Small Business of the Month, please contact Joell Aguirre at 618-467-2280 or jaguirre@growthassociation.com.

Business Name _____

Owner or Manager _____

Reason for nomination _____

Nomination submitted by (optional) _____



Awards Committee member, Amy Schaake of The Telegraph, congratulates owner Jim Murphy of Jim Murphy's Lawn & Landscaping Service for his award of the August Small Business of the Month.

Construction Began This Spring On NGRREC's LEED-Certified Field Station In Alton

Lewis and Clark Community College marked the official launch of construction on the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC) Field Station with an event at the Great Rivers Museum in Alton this spring. The LEED certified river research facility will be built adjacent to the Great Rivers Museum.

The Field Station will enhance NGRREC'S reputation as the nation's foremost river research institution, and will be the first institution of its kind to offer a comprehensive river system research and education program.

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation presented NGRREC with a check for \$642,500 for the design of LEED and energy projects.

To date, Congressman Jerry Costello has secured more than \$3.5 million in federal funds for NGRREC, which have been used for NGRREC operations and field station site planning.

"Understanding the elements required

to sustain a healthy river system is critical for not only environmental health but also for economic health. An upgraded lock and dam network, while also balancing environmental needs along the river system, is important for commodity transport down the rivers to the Gulf of Mexico and on to world markets," U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello (D-Belleville) said.

In 2006 Governor Rod Blagojevich awarded the College \$6.8 million to construct the field station. The \$16.5 million facility will be constructed with the Governor's funds, the grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, as well as additional federal, state, county and local funds.

The building will boast numerous sustainable design elements. Some of the elements will include a vegetative roof, long-wearing bamboo floors, innovative waste water technology, on-site wind and hydro power, and many other environmentally friendly and energy efficient options. Lewis and Clark will seek a Platinum

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the building, the nation's highest recognitions of projects that incorporate "green" design principles.

The building is scheduled to be completed in 2009 and will be a model of green construction with virtually no environmental impact, renewable energy systems and internal recycling systems.

NGRREC is the product of a unique educational partnership between Lewis and Clark, the University of Illinois and the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Lewis and Clark President Dale Chapman added that NGRREC is already having an impact as a result of its symposia and internship programs. "NGRREC has hosted or co-sponsored five symposia on rivers, with the most recent being the Cache River



Conference in southern Illinois. The meetings have earned an international reputation for NGRREC. The research conducted by the organization's interns has also resulted in national exposure for the work that is being done," Chapman said.

The field station staff will continue to conduct research and education programs to increase understanding of big rivers, their watersheds and floodplains, and the interaction between the rivers and their human, plant and animal communities.

Welcome our newest members who joined during the month of July 2008**HomeHelpers, HHL Holding Co. LLC**

Andy Lazor, Bill Haug, Sharon Held
200 W. 3rd Street, Suite 712
Alton IL 62002
(618) 467-6460
www.homehelpers.cc
Home Helpers is a non-medical in home care provider serving Southwestern IL, North St. Louis and St Charles MO. We offer a wide array of services for New Moms, Individuals in Rehabilitation, Respite Care and customized services for Seniors and others in need. Our staff consists of CNA's, Home Health Aides and an RN. Everyone is bonded and insured, drug tested and carefully screened to the highest level of professionalism. We use state of the art software and technology that allows us to know that our caregivers are on time for each assignment. Our business prides itself on having a caring, compassionate and an understanding attitude while serving our communities. We offer a free in home consultation / assessment and individual care plans are written and approved. Each caregiver is introduced and assigned personally by one of the owners before they start an assignment. Please give us a call as we are certain you will not be disappointed but rather delighted with our staff and wide array of services

Hutson Surveying & Engineering, Inc.

Sara Hutson, President
120 North Washington
Bunker Hill IL 62014
(618) 585-6150
hutsonsurvey.com
Hutson Surveying and Engineering (HSE) began over six years ago on

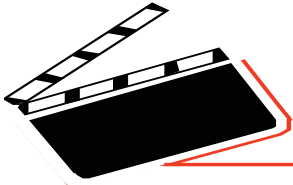
the belief that professionalism, quality, value and fairness are fundamental to a successful company. Over the years, we have developed that belief into a full service Surveying and Civil Engineering firm. HSE utilizes the latest technology and equipment to offer boundary surveys, construction staking, ALTA Surveys, Topographic Surveys and various other related surveying services. HSE also offers a wide range of engineering services for urban and rural roadway design, site development, utility design, storm water management, and infrastructure design. We currently have nineteen full and part time employees and service the entire metro St. Louis area. Our goal as a surveying and engineering firm continues to be to offer the best possible product, in a timely manner, at a reasonable cost.

Riverbend Chiropractic & Rehabilitation

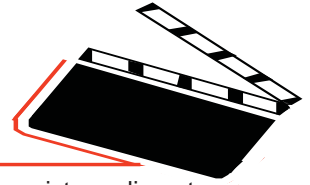
Charlie Sottoriva, Chiropractor
133 East St. Louis Ave.
East Alton IL 62024
(618) 259-8000
Riverbend Chiropractic & Rehabilitation has been operating since June of 2008. Prior to that, it was operated under a different owner and name. We are still providing top notch Chiropractic care and are one of the only offices in the area to have full-time massage therapy in house. We run a no-wait clinic and appointments are recommended, but certainly not necessary. We will submit any and all insurance claims for you and also offer individual payment plans based on your personal needs. Our clinic hours are Mon., Tues, Wed. and Friday from 11am to 6pm. Come see Dr. Charlie and his wonderful staff!

SIUE Foundation

Julie Babington, Dir. of Annual Giving
Steve Jankowski, Dir. of Alumni Affairs
30 N. Circle Drive, Birger Hall
Edwardsville IL 62026-
(618) 650-2378
*The SIUE Foundation supports the mission, vision, and values of SIUE. The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) Foundation was incorporated in 1977 and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. On behalf of the University, the Foundation provides fundraising coordination and implementation, serves as the steward for contributions, produces donor receipts, conducts the annual fund drive programs, and upholds the highest standards of fiscal responsibility and investment management. These efforts are conducted in relation to the donors' expressed wishes as well as the instructional, scholarship, and public service pursuits of the University. www.siu.edu/give
The SIUE Alumni Association was established in 1973 to keep alumni connected with SIUE, friends and classmates. The Alumni Association is about keeping up with exciting news and happenings on campus. It's about our alumni and the fact that the value of their degree increases as the reputation of the university continues to grow. The mission of the SIUE Alumni Association is to enhance the personal and professional advancement of SIUE alumnus/alumna/alumni through the establishment and nurturing of mutually beneficial relationships that supports SIUE, its mission and values. www.siu.edu/alumni*



“A Red Carpet Networking Extravaganza”



Go before the cameras and get the behind the scene information on the RiverBend Growth Association’s and SCORE’s annual career development seminar for women.

Mark your calendars to attend the “Red Carpet Networking Extravaganza” on Wednesday, September 17th at the Holiday Inn Alton. This event allows all attendees the opportunity to listen to two speakers on the topics of networking and branding/marketing one’s business. All guests of this event will enjoy the opportunity to network with women of all industries, take home attendance gifts, have opportunities to win door prizes, enjoy fabulous breakfast pastries and lunch and much more!

Our keynote speaker, Dawn Mushill, owner of Customer Service and Beyond, is in an encore performance from her 2006 debut at our women’s seminar. Dawn offers a fun environment for learning. She will take her fans to the next

level of networking and direct them to master opportunities on branding/marketing themselves and their businesses.

Attendees of this event will also enjoy hearing Sally Roth’s “Secrets of her Success” during lunch. Ms. Roth, Upper Midwest Area Executive, Greater St. Louis President of Regions Bank, will motivate the audience by sharing her experiences taking her to the top of the banking industry.

The credit for sponsorship of this star studded event goes to: Alton Memorial Hospital, Beverly Farm, ComPAS Physician Network, Cope Plastics, Edward Jones Representative James Claywell, Greenville College Adult Degree Completion, Holiday Inn Alton, Imaging Center, Logolt@Langa, Missouri Baptist University, Olin Community Credit Union, Raifort Properties, Regions Bank, Saint Anthony’s Health Center, St. Louis Regional Airport, TheBANK of Edwardsville, and Vantage Credit Union.

The cost to attend this

seminar is \$50 per person or \$275 for a table of 6. Reservations can be made by filling out the adjacent form and mailing it to the RiverBend Growth Association, calling the RiverBend Growth Association at 618-467-2280

or register online at www.growthassociation.com.

For more information on this event, please contact Joell Aguirre at 618-467-2280 or emailing her at jaguirre@growthassociation.com.

REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Attendees _____

_____ \$50.00 each

_____ \$275.00 for a table of 6

Check enclosed, payable to River Bend Growth Association

Please charge my MasterCard or Visa in the amount of \$

Name on card _____

Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Deadline for registrations is September 10, 2008. No refunds for cancellations after this date.

RECENT RIBBON CUTTINGS



The Mail Box Store, located at 333 West Bethalto Drive in Bethalto (inside the new Liberty Bank Plaza), celebrated with a ribbon cutting on Friday, July 11th.

The Mail Box Store is a family owned business that is an authorized shipper

for FedEx, DHL, UPS and the United States Post Office. Along with shipping, The Mail Box Store offers a full line of moving and retail packaging products, as well as the service to wrap, protect and pack any item for you. The Mail Box Store also offers customers a full line of business services ranging from copying, faxing, laminating, binding and much more. They offer e-bay services, personal mail box rentals and thousands of gift items for you to purchase.

For more information on The Mail Box Store, please call 618-377-6245 or visit online at www.themailboxstore.net.



Growth Association Ambassadors, city officials, family, friends and staff of the **Alton Marina** helped Karen Baker-Brcnic celebrate National Marina Day and ribbon cutting on Saturday August 9. Brcnic thanked the City for their support with the flood cleanup.

Many new amenities have been added at the marina, operated by Parrot Pointe Marine. For more information, call 618-462-9873 or stop by for a tour on the Alton Riverfront.

Business After Hours Buffet Blowout....

Thank-you to the hosts of the Buffet Blowout Business After Hours at the Wood River Aquatic Center on Thursday, August 21st: KevCor Construction Services, Olin Community Credit Union, Southern Illinois Real Estate Title Center, Woodman Collision Center and the Wood River Aquatic Center. The rain showers did not stop the 350+ RiverBend Growth Association members and their guests from networking and enjoying the evening: contestants participating in the water activities, fabulous food from Chef Bob, cool and refreshing beverages from Donnewald Distributing...and even Elvis was "in the building."

Teams were recruited to participate in water activities: diving board challenge, greased water raft challenge and the Buffett attire challenge. 16 teams participated and collected over \$700, which will go directly to several River Bend community non profit organizations: Juvenile Diabetes, Habitat for Humanity Wood River, Wood River Youth League, 5-A's, Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation, Salvation Army, Credit Unions for Kids, Arms of Love Pregnancy Resource Center, BJC Hospice, Boys and Girls Club of Alton, Tri City Youth League and the Cancer Society.

Thank-you to the following RiverBend Growth Association members who supported this cause and participated in the water challenges: Alton Memorial Hospital, Club Fitness, Hair Force 1, KevCor Construction Services, Liberty Bank, Mac's



KevCor Construction Services teammates Andrea Elliott and Kaleb Ball prepare for the Buffet Attire Challenge.

Sealing & Striping, RE/MAX River Bend, Shell Community Federal Credit Union, Southern Illinois Real Estate Title Center, TheBANK of Edwardsville, Wood River Aquatic Center and the Wood River Park & Recreation Department.

1st place went to Mac's Sealing & Striping: "Team Hospice." 2nd place went to KevCor Construction Services: "KevCor Landshark Attack" and 3rd place went to Southern Illinois Real Estate Title Center: "Red Neck Ranglers."

Our next Business After Hours is Thursday, September 18th from 5-8 pm at Lockhaven Country Club. Host Helmkamp Construction Company is celebrating 70 years in business.



Russ Wheat and his staff at Mac's Sealing & Striping show off their 1st place victory!



Thank-you to the Buffet Blowout BAH sponsors: Otto Rice of the Wood River Aquatic Center, Donna Thornton of Southern Illinois Real Estate Title Center, Dorrie Ball and Kevin Hilligoss of KevCor Construction Services, Jess Woodman of Woodman Collision Center and Don Reedy and Janae Hausman of Olin Community Credit Union....and of course, Elvis!

St. Ambrose goes green for God

Students at St. Ambrose Catholic School in Godfrey have gone green for God. Building on momentum created several years ago, the school children are committed for the upcoming school year to "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle."

The school's Annual Ice Cream Social kicked off a new year and a renewed sense of concern for Mother Earth. The Social was held Saturday, Aug 16 after the 4:30 p.m. Mass. Students sported "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" t-shirts, which can also be worn on dress down days to promote respect for our environment.

Focus on green ways for living is an everyday commitment at St. Ambrose, where faculty and students are continuously involved in collecting many reusable consumer products that would otherwise litter the ground or sit in a landfill. These recyclables include aluminum cans, newspapers,

milk jug lids, and pull tabs from soft drink cans.

The school's effort to recycle and reuse everyday items has been spearheaded by Mrs. Minnie Stalker, teacher at St. Ambrose. And, the effort has its rewards.

At this year's Madison County Recycling Program Earth Flag Celebration, students at St. Ambrose were recognized for several accomplishments. The event was held at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

The school received two monetary bonuses from Abitibi for increasing the tonnage of recyclable paper collected.

Several St. Ambrose students were recognized for their creative use of reusable materials in the county's annual TRASHformations contest.

St. Ambrose students receiving recognition were Meghan Korte (8th Grade) and Rebecca Griffon (7th Grade), *Little Red Schoolhouse*, 2nd place each receiving \$50 in gift cards; Alex Davis, (4th Grade), *Leon the Litterer*, and Emma Nicholson, (K), "*Ship the Lions*."

Students from all over the county participate in TRASHformations each year. Projects are made of such items as paper towel rolls, newspaper, recycled paper, pizza boxes, toothpicks, aluminum foil, plastic water bottles, detergent bottle caps, and popsicle sticks.

Students contributed to the Ronald McDonald house with the money



earned from the collection of pull tabs from soft drink cans.

Additionally, thanks to a grant from Madison County Recycling Program (as pictured) and Abitibi Paper Retriever Community Recycling Program, the children will enjoy a new playground surface made of recyclable tires and other materials. The surface will be completed as school begins.

Back To School...

The RiverBend Growth Association celebrates "Back-To-School" with our local high schools by kicking off the 2008-2009 year with our Young Adults Committee.

The Young Adults Committee is comprised of volunteers from the Growth Association's membership and representatives from the local high schools: Alton High School, Civic Memorial High School, East Alton-Wood River High School, Marquette Catholic High School, Roxana High School and Southwestern High School. The goal of this committee is to teach students to work collaboratively with the common goal of benefiting the community at large. Students learn organizational, management and leadership skills through the process. Each year

these students put on a fundraiser. The proceeds from this fundraiser allow this committee to award a scholarship to a graduating high school student and donate to a charity of their choice. The volunteers on this committee act as mentors for these students and offer advice in the planning and execution of their fundraiser. This committee meets monthly on the second Thursday from 8:15 am-9:30 am during the months of September-May.

This Young Adults Committee is welcoming new volunteers to mentor these students. If you want an exciting and rewarding experience in touching the lives of our future leaders of tomorrow, this is the volunteer experience for you. For more information, please contact Joell Aguirre at

618-467-2280 or jaguirre@growth-association.com.

Our first committee meeting is Thursday, September 11th at Alton High School. Thank-you to the students, the schools and the committee members for being committed to the Young Adults Committee.



The 2007-2008 Young Adults Committee at their Battle of the Bands Fundraiser.

MAYOR REPORT –

Kenneth Beasley, Village of South Roxana



South Roxana has experienced some exciting developments since my last report. MidWest BioDiesel is now in production and Christ Brothers Asphalt has recently expanded at their location. We have completed annexation of several pieces of property and finished an expansion of TIF #1 and established TIF #2 south of the canal.

Developers are already expressing interest in these areas and we have high expectations for future development. Masching Playhouse is currently under construction in the 300 block of Sinclair Avenue. Masching Playhouse will feature live theatre productions and hopes to be open before Christmas. South Roxana continues to move forward and I am proud of the direction we are headed.

Membership with the RiverBend Growth Association...

The membership committee, under the direction of Membership Committee Chairperson, Denise Wolff of Partners Bank, is organizing the recruitment drive for 2008. During the month of September, a group of volunteers will be rallying together to make personal phone calls and/or visits to businesses in an attempt to educate them on the effectiveness of being a member of the RiverBend Growth Association. "We are educating the community of the benefits to being a chamber member. We work hard to attract, promote and support new and existing growth throughout the River Bend community," said Joell Aguirre, Director of Member Services for The Growth Association.

The RiverBend Growth Association is a chamber of commerce and an economic agency serving the 11 communities known as the River Bend. The RiverBend Growth Association works to optimize job retention, job expansion and community growth

in coordination with business, education, government, labor and the general public.

Thank-you to Denise and her volunteers for taking time to educate the community about the RiverBend Growth Association: Casey Hamberg of Langa Resource Group, Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties, Pam Whisler of The Village of Godfrey, Nancy Baahmann of Beverly Farm, Marlene Lewis of Alton Memorial Hospital, Jerry Gibson of The Village of Godfrey, Jackie Parks of Liberty Bank, Brenda Moore of Southern Illinois Real Estate Title Center, Janae Hausman of Olin Community Credit Union, Tina Zumwalt of Saint Anthony's Health Center, Rhonda Pluester of TheBANK of Edwardsville and Dick Propes.

For more information regarding membership, please contact Joell Aguirre at 618-467-2280 or jaguirre@growthassociation.com.

Alton Memorial Hospital Awards Lewis And Clark \$227,500 For Mobile Health Clinic

Alton Memorial Hospital has presented Lewis and Clark Community College with a check for \$227,500 which will be used to enhance the College's mobile health clinic. The mobile unit, which is currently being built by LifeLine Mobile of Columbus, Ohio is expected to be on the road and servicing patients by fall.

The money transferred to the College by Alton Memorial Hospital was a Cy Pres infrastructure maintenance fee grant the hospital received to use toward a project with community benefit. Earlier this year

meeting the growing healthcare needs of the region."

The mobile clinic will allow Lewis and Clark's Nurse Managed Center to provide dental, general health and mental health screenings to more than 90,000 residents in the counties served by the College. The finished clinic will allow Lewis and Clark to perform ongoing services for approximately 3,500 children in 11 targeted schools, in addition to community services such as women's health, school physicals, health screenings and general public education programs.

The mobile clinic includes a reception and patient education area and two patient rooms, which will include equipment for both medical and dental exams.

Lewis and Clark President Dale Chapman thanked Alton Memorial

Hospital for the gift that will allow the College to continue its healthcare outreach efforts. "This one-of-a-kind mobile health clinic will allow the College to expand its current offerings to the growing number of medically underserved residents in our district," Chapman said. "Alton Memorial Hospital and its Foundation have been tremendously supportive of our nursing program for many years, providing clinical experience for our students, excellent employment options for our graduates and a \$2.5 million donation for the construction of our current nursing facility. Alton Memorial has a strong commitment to the healthcare of this region, and I think that is evident through their continued support of projects such as this that have tremendous benefit

for our entire region."

"Alton Memorial Hospital has long been a leader in community outreach and continues to provide the best care close to home," Paul Lauschke, chairman of the Alton Memorial Hospital Board, said. "Partnering with Lewis and Clark will provide a far reaching benefit to our surrounding communities and assist those who may not have access to health care."

The Nurse Managed Center, which has been operating under a three-year grant received in 2006 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Health Resources and Services Administration), has been providing direct care to residents of all or parts of Madison, Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Macoupin counties. The Center provides outreach medical, dental and mental health services to underserved communities under the guidance of nurse practitioners.

Lewis and Clark is the first and only community college to have received a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to operate a nurse managed center, and is also the only community college in the nation to operate a mobile clinic that offers both medical and dental services.

The Center is managed by three nurse practitioners and a dental hygienist, who also serve as faculty at Lewis and Clark. The practitioners not only provide medical and dental care, but also have the resources and the ability to coordinate health promotion programs for all age groups. Working with the faculty and staff from the dental and nursing programs at Lewis and Clark and representatives from Lewis and Clark's counseling program, the Center is multifaceted in its offerings to the community.

"Our mission is to expand existing

healthcare services to the medically underserved residents of the College's district," Dean of Allied Health Donna Meyer said. "Not only do we strive to provide quality health care services, but we are also working to educate people to take charge of their own health."

Meyer said the Center also engages students in the nursing and dental programs, and provides them with a rich, hands-on clinical experience.

"Experience has shown that nursing and dental hygiene students who complete their clinical training in their own local communities tend to stay and practice in those communities after graduation," Meyer said.

Currently the Center is working in Macoupin and Greene counties to provide primary care services to residents. A third site is operated on campus for students, faculty and staff in conjunction with the health services department.

Lewis and Clark Board of Trustees Chairman Robert Watson said the funds received from Alton Memorial Hospital will prove beneficial to the region for years to come. "Not only will these funds allow us to provide necessary healthcare to residents, but it will also strengthen our Allied Health programs through their clinical experiences with the mobile health clinic."

Lewis and Clark's Nurse Managed Center is one of only 250 nurse managed centers located in the United States. Most centers are located in inner cities to provide necessary medical care.

This spring the Nurse Managed Center received the Illinois Rural Health Association's Special Exemplary Award.



Senator Barack Obama was instrumental in helping the College procure a grant for \$287,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The combined funds will be used to purchase the mobile unit and provide it with state-of-the-art equipment.

"We feel fortunate to be able to partner with Lewis and Clark Community College with this unique initiative," Alton Memorial Hospital President Dave Braasch said. "Alton Memorial Hospital is committed to providing excellent health services and care in the surrounding communities. Transferring this grant award to Lewis and Clark to be used to help purchase and equip the vehicle, will help all of us in