

Governor Tim Pawlenty Declares Monday, May 4th as “Spare Key Day” in Minnesota

**Saint Paul Mayor Coleman and Minneapolis Mayor Rybak join in declaring
“Spare Key Day” as organization announces campaign to
“Unlock a Million Priceless Moments”**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rae Thiede
rae@sparekey.org
952-406-8872

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – (May 4, 2009) – Surrounded by supporters, Spare Key, a 12 year old Minnesota non-profit focused on providing mortgage grant assistance to eligible Minnesota homeowners to spend precious time with their critically ill or seriously injured child, announced a 30 day campaign to “Unlock a Million Priceless Moments”.

“In the next 30 days, we are making an extra effort to cross a \$1 million milestone,” said Rae Thiede, Executive Director of Spare Key. “With the help of volunteers, sponsors, Governor Tim Pawlenty, Mayor Christopher Coleman and Mayor R.T. Rybak, during the month of May, we are escalating our efforts to increase awareness of what we do and try to help more Minnesota families.”

Surrounded by Minnesota Housing Commissioner Dan Bartholomay, Saint Paul Public Housing Executive Director Jon Gutzmann, City Councilmember Melvin Carter, Thiede said that their support, and that of Saint Paul City Councilmember Pat Harris who will introduce a resolution recognizing the group on Wednesday, are critical pieces of the 30 day campaign.

“Times are tough for all families, and yet, a sick child can’t wait for the economy to get better before they improve,” said Thiede, “The support of individuals, elected officials, corporate and private foundations, and communities sends a very strong message to our families that they can focus on their kids, and not worry about falling behind on their mortgage payment.”

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As part of the campaign to “Unlock a Million Priceless Moments”, Old Friends Productions will present “Don't Say You Don't Remember,” a musical tribute of heartfelt renditions of songs loved from the 70's and 80's. Spare Key will benefit from the proceeds of the two performances held on May 6 and June 2. The programs are being sponsored by Edina Realty, Sherwin-Williams and KOOL 108. Other supporters include The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, and J.D. Signs who donated signage for the effort.

The musical tributes will be held in the Theater at The Woman's Club of Minneapolis at 407 West 15th Street. Tickets are \$25 each and parking is free at the 630 seat venue with performances by professional musicians Adena Brumer, Jordan Carlson, Katie Gearty, Bob Pontious, Blair Krivanek, and Cody McKinney.

Patsy and Robb Keech founded Spare Key in 1997 after the death of their 2 ½ year old son, Derian. Born with a genetic birth defect, Derian endured many hospitalizations – six major surgeries and five open-heart surgeries in his short life. Spare Key has helped nearly 1,000 Minnesota families with a critically ill or seriously injured child by granting mortgage payment assistance, allowing them to spend time with their child. Now, more than ever, families are torn between the need to be with their critically ill or injured child and the need to work to pay their mortgage and other bills.

To find out if Spare Key can help your family, or somebody you know, ask a social worker or check out the complete list of guidelines on the Spare Key website. People interested in helping Minnesota homeowners with critically ill or seriously injured children to support a mortgage payment, tax deductible donations can be sent to Spare Key, Suite L-2 1550 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN 55425, or donations can be made online at: www.sparekey.org

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