



For Immediate Release

January 15, 2009

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**The Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation
Donates \$71,250 to YMCA for Job Prep Program
Applications Now Being Accepted for Participants**

WICHITA, KS — The Greater Wichita YMCA will provide a Job Prep Program for area teens thanks to a \$71,250 grant from the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation. The grant will kick start a job training program for youth ages 15-17 this spring semester.

“Job Prep will give area teens the tools to successfully pursue a job,” commented Mim Wilkey, YMCA community development executive director. “Whether it’s learning how to dress for an interview or discovering a talent in a job field they never before considered, this program opens students’ eyes to the wealth of opportunities available to them.”

YMCA Job Prep is a 12-week training program that helps teens develop skills such as professionalism, financial responsibility and quality customer service. Participants will learn from a variety of sources including guest speakers from local businesses and agencies including Koch Industries, Intrust Bank, Dillard’s and the Internal Revenue Service. Youth will also become certified in CPR and first aid. Upon completion, participants may be eligible for a summer job for the Greater Wichita YMCA.

According to Liz Koch, president of the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation, Job Prep is one of several programs the Foundation supports that are targeted at youth. “This program truly has the potential to be transformational for these young people,” she said. “The skills they will learn and the experiences they will have are critical in today’s world. Our hope is that they will finish this program with a thorough understanding of what it takes to be successful.”

“Mentoring and educating young teens is a passion that both the YMCA and Koch share,” Greater Wichita YMCA General Executive Dennis Schoenebeck said. “In

supporting this program, the Koch Foundation is providing an invaluable service to this community and local students.”

Job Prep meets 6-8 p.m. Monday nights Feb. 9 - May 4 at the Central Branch YMCA, 402 N. Market. Applications are available at www.ymcawichita.org and will be accepted through Monday, Feb. 16. Students interested should contact Melissa at 264-4066 ext. 223 or Melissa@wichitaymca.org.

The Greater Wichita YMCA is a non-profit organization that serves more than 175,000 members and program participants each year through its Child Care and Camp Programs, Community Development Programs and Healthy Lifestyles activities. Within the YMCA’s financial capabilities, no person is refused program or membership privileges because of inability to pay.

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