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Southside Family School Unveils Community Mural

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**SOUTHSIDE FAMILY SCHOOL UNVEILS COMMUNITY MURAL
Community Pitches in for Mural Project to Share Students' Message of Hope**

June 29, 2005 (Minneapolis, MN)—A celebration of the completion of Southside Family School (SFS) Community Mural Project will take place on Tuesday, July 20 at 7:00 pm at the Hennepin History Museum, 2303 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. The mural was created by third through seventh grade SFS students who want to share their vision for a just, sustainable, peaceful world. This event will honor the students' work and recognize of the people and organizations that made the project possible.

As part of the students' Eco-Education Environmental Service Learning Project led by teachers Brynne Macosko Paguyo and Melissa Favero, the tile mural was created on the Hennepin History Museum's retaining wall at the Whittier-St. Stephens Community Garden (on Clinton Avenue between 22nd and 24th Streets). The History Museum was excited to support the students as they sought to brighten the garden and deter graffiti, while sharing their positive vision with the community. The colorful display depicts children in a flower garden, with images of, "acceptance, kid power, clean air and peace" scripted in the tile.

SFS was fortunate to partner with local artist, Angela Carlson. Last fall, students watched her create a tile mural at Peace House, a neighborhood drop in center for homeless men and women, near SFS. Carlson joined the students and sketched a plan for the mural inspired by the SFS students' drawings and helped bring their ideas to fruition.

City of Lakes AmeriCorps members, Paul Strootman, Beth Barrett, Jeff Pilon and Sara Chabot spent weeks gathering donations of tiles, grout and other materials needed to make the project a success. They supervised the student project over a three-week period at the end of May.

"We are so proud of this mural. The entire neighborhood came together to support these students. The kids showed great leadership and we are excited to celebrate their success and beautiful contribution to the community," says Chabot.

The Southside Family School is a small, k-8 school whose mission is to meet the needs of a culturally and ethnically diverse population by engaging children in critical thinking and problem solving, involving children in political and social activism, encouraging creative expression, offering a wide range of electives and advocating for children and families. Founded in 1972, the school pairs fundamental academics with an award-winning social justice curriculum. For more information please visit the school's website at www.southsidefamilyschool.org.

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