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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2009

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Sangamon County Community Foundation awards \$10,000 grant to Sangamon County Regional Office of Education

Springfield – The [Sangamon County Community Foundation](http://www.sccf.us) has announced a \$10,000 grant from its Communityworks Fund to the Sangamon County Regional Office of Education to support efforts of the [Continuum of Learning](#) – a community partnership to ensure that all in Sangamon County are “ready to learn, ready to work and ready to succeed.”

The grant will support development and maintenance of a comprehensive database that identifies pre-kindergarten children living in Sangamon County.

“We are thrilled to have the financial support to take this critical step toward helping to get all children in our county ready for kindergarten,” said Regional Superintendent of Schools Helen Tolan.

The database will house basic information about pre-kindergarten children, including screenings and services they have received for school readiness.

“The Sangamon County Regional Office of Education is a wonderful partner to do this work, and we look forward to providing our community with the essential data it needs to help get all kids off on the right foot when they enter school,” said John Stremsterfer, executive director of the Community Foundation.

The *Continuum of Learning* was launched in early 2008 through a partnership among the Community Foundation, United Way of Central Illinois and The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Soon after the partnership was formed, groups of community leaders and concerned citizens began meeting through the *Continuum of Learning* to form an organized response to the issues of student and worker readiness. Through this unique partnership, our community has positioned itself to bring together the resources to make a measurable impact in improving our community.

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The *Continuum of Learning* has identified five aspiration statements to make its vision a reality:

- *Stage One (birth-pre-k)*: To have every child in Sangamon County ready for kindergarten
- *Stage Two (grades k-5)*: To have every student performing academically at or above grade level
- *Stage Three (grades 6-12)*: To have every student graduate with a plan for his/her future
- *Stage Four (post-secondary)*: To have increased post-secondary educational attainment to prepare students to enter occupations critical to Sangamon County's economic growth
- *Stage Five (employee development)*: To have Sangamon County residents achieve their highest employment potential

To learn more about the *Continuum of Learning*, visit www.continuumoflearning.com.

Through philanthropic services, strategic grantmaking and community leadership, Sangamon County Community Foundation "connects people who care with causes that matter."

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