Press Release for November 19, 2014

While Governor Jay Nixon and state leaders meet in Jefferson City today to mark National Homelessness and Hunger Awareness Week, Peter & Paul Community Services opens its Garfield Commons Safe Haven in St. Louis, a permanent supportive housing program designed for those considered "chronically homeless."

"It's taken us years to find a neighborhood willing to support our mission" says Steve Campbell, Executive Director of PPCS, "but the Benton Park West nieghborhood and surrounding neighborhoods have done just that."

Renovations to Garfield School at the corner of Jefferson and Wyoming Street are now complete. An Open House today celebrates the occasion.

With help from BSI Constructors, ND Consulting and a long list of public and private support, the building will now serve as apartments for men and women who have lived on the streets for years. Clinical professionals will offer occupational therapy, nursing , case management and substance abuse counseling to residents. "Garfield Commons" will also host the agency's headquarters, as well as, a Day Center for its Positive Directions Program serving those who are homeless and living with HIV.

Peter & Paul Community Services has been a leader in St. Louis in efforts to solve homelessness. For 32 years the agency and its countless volunteers have offered a variety of programs to reach those in most need.

An emergency shelter in Soulard offers a 90-day stay for 70 men nightly. It's nearby Meals Program serves up to 225 men, women, children, seniors and veterans monthly. Other transitional housing programs specifically focus on those who experience mental illness or live with HIV and substance abuse.

"The Garfield Commons Safe Haven is a leap forward for us as an agency," says Program Director Adam Pearson. "Unfortunately business is booming but with continued support from the community we know we can do more to reach those in need."

Open House at Garfield Commons – Wednesday, November 19 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Address – 2612 Wyoming Street, 63118

Neighborhood – Benton Park West

Speakers:

Mike Gunn – The Gunn Law Firm & PPCS Board Chair
Adam Pearson – Program Director Garfield Commons Safe Haven
Linda Hennigh – Benton Park West Neighborhood Association
Ken Ortmann – Alderman Ward 9
Pamela Sanders – Missouri Housing Development Commission
April Ford-Griffin – Affordable Housing Commission of St. Louis
Tom Burnham – Director of Shelter Services