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Edgewood Children's Center & The Gumbo Shop Spice Up Thanksgiving

ST. LOUIS, MO – (October 13, 2008) Edgewood Children's Center and the Gumbo Shop will once again team up to bring a special Cajun twist to Thanksgiving tables across St. Louis. Sid and Mary Roberts, owners of The Gumbo Shop, share their secret recipe and know-how to Edgewood volunteers to create Cajun deep fried turkeys. The third annual Cajun turkey fry will take place on Edgewood's campus the week of Thanksgiving.

Edgewood Children's Center offers a wide range of services from special education and residential treatment to foster care case management and intensive home-based family therapy. For each child served through the residential treatment program, there is a \$100 per day funding gap. The daily cost to serve a child is \$208, but only \$108 is reimbursed through state funding. The Cajun turkey fry is one of many special events Edgewood has implemented to close that funding gap.

"We hope to sell over 300 turkeys this year," said Wayne Crull, Edgewood's President and CEO. "And all of the proceeds from the event will go directly to Edgewood's programs." Crull is hoping to double last year's success. The 2007 turkey fry raised more than \$5,000 for the children of Edgewood.

The 10-12 lb. hens are fried in peanut oil using a special recipe, wrapped, and refrigerated for pick-up for only \$55. On Thanksgiving Day, just warm up your turkey for 30 minutes, and you will have a juicy Cajun bird on your table in no time. "You don't just buy a turkey," said Crull. "You help us help our kids."

You can pick up your turkey on Wednesday, November 26, before 6 p.m. on Edgewood's campus in Webster Groves. Get a jump start on your 2008 Thanksgiving dinner by ordering your Cajun turkey today! For more information and to order your 2008 turkey, please visit www.eccstl.org.

About Edgewood Children's Center. Serving 350 children and families daily, Edgewood provides compassionate care and treatment to restore children and strengthen families through intensive therapy, special education, residential treatment, case management and support services. In 2009, Edgewood will celebrate 175 years of keeping kids at the heart of everything we do.

About The Gumbo Shop. Inside this tiny shop at 9501 Manchester Road in Rock Hill, you'll find authentic bayou dishes cooked up by Louisiana natives. From jambalaya to fried oysters, The Gumbo shop has been serving Cajun palates in the St. Louis community for nine years. The Gumbo Shop was recognized in the Riverfront Times as the best Cajun Restaurant in St. Louis and by Sauce Magazine as a 2008 Reader's Choice Award winner.

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