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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rosedale Kansas Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Through Literacy

Kansas City, Kan., January 19, 2015 – Thirty-two years ago our nation chose today to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. This week, classrooms across the Rosedale area of Kansas City, Kansas take up stories and conversations about that legacy in RISE—Reading Inspirational Stories to Empower.

Volunteers and staff from the Rosedale Development Association will read stories about the Civil Rights Movement to local schools this week. Participating schools include Holy Name Catholic School, Frank Rushton Elementary and T.A. Edison Elementary.

“We appreciate the fact that the community is willing to come in and join in on the work with our children,” Frank Rushton Elementary Principal Mary Welsh said. “It’s great for the kids to hear other perspectives on Martin Luther King, Jr. and civil rights.”

Through storytelling, community members and local youth will explore ideas about civil rights and social justice, while also encouraging critical thinking and a love of reading.

According to the 2010 National Assessment of Educational Progress by the Southern Poverty Law Center, both Kansas and Missouri received an “F” grade regarding their curricula on the Civil Rights Movement. This means that both states in the Kansas City Metro include zero to 20 percent of the recommended content about this important moment in American history.

36 classrooms in the Rosedale neighborhood will set aside time to learn about the Civil Rights Movement this week. In partnership with the Kansas City, Kansas school district and teachers and administrators in Rosedale schools, Rosedale Development Association hopes to inspire the future leaders of our community to be passionate critical thinkers.

“It is a chance to share and impart essential knowledge to young people who may not necessarily get a chance to freely discuss and learn about social issues in their own environment,” said RISE volunteer Deana Wilhoite.

About Rosedale Development Association:

Rosedale Development Association’s mission is to work in partnership with residents, businesses and institutions to build a strong, healthy community and to improve the quality of life for those who live, work and play in Rosedale. To learn more about RDA and how to get involved, call 913-677-5097 or visit rosedale.org.

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