

December 12, 2011

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **WIC, Schweitzer UMC Join to Assist Young Families**

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program is pleased to announce the newest partnership in our efforts to serve families where they can easily access services.

Schweitzer United Methodist Church, located at 2747 E. Sunshine St. in Springfield will serve as the newest WIC Host Site on the second Wednesday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. WIC staff will be on site to provide services to eligible participants. WIC provides a multitude of services for families and infants, including education, support, supplemental nutritious foods, and referrals to other community resources. All of these services will be available at Schweitzer United Methodist Church through this partnership.

WIC has been successful in providing services to families at locations that are more convenient and easy to access through partnerships such as this. In all, there are now four other host sites throughout the community in addition to the primary WIC location at 440 E. Tampa St. in Springfield and a satellite location at 937 N. Lindsey Ave. in Republic. The other three locations are at Willard United Methodist Church, Pathways United Methodist Church, and Asbury United Methodist Church.

Schweitzer United Methodist Church has a strong outreach program that touches many people. These services include a food pantry in its new outreach center. This partnership provides yet another opportunity to serve the community.

"We find that going out into the community and being in a variety of locations helps us better fulfill our mission of providing healthier and happier outcomes to more new moms and infants," says WIC Coordinator Mary Ellison. "It's very effective to be able to tap into already established outreach programs like that at Schweitzer."

### **About WIC:**

Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Education and Supplemental Food Program serves to safeguard the health of eligible women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. WIC is designed to improve the nutritional health of pregnant women, breastfeeding moms, infants, and children with the goal of improving the overall health of families. WIC also provides vouchers to purchase nutritious supplemental foods like milk, eggs, cheese, fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grain breads, cereal, peanut butter and beans at several local businesses.

Note to media: Reporters are welcome to cover WIC activities at Schweitzer this Wednesday, Dec. 14. If you are interested in interviewing either Ellison or a representative of Schweitzer

United Methodist Church's outreach programs, please contact Mike Brothers in advance to make arrangements.

**Media contact:** Mike Brothers, Public Information Administrator, Office: (417) 874-1205, Cell: (417) 894-9064, [mbrothers@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:mbrothers@springfieldmo.gov)



**Harold K. Bengsch Building**

227 E. Chestnut Expwy. • Springfield, MO 65802  
417-864-1658