For Immediate Release

WIC Family Photo Exhibit at First Friday Art Walk

First Friday Art Walk will include a photographic tribute to one of the longest standing public health programs available to help families in making good nutritional choices. A gallery dedicated to a photographic depiction of WIC families, including mothers, babies, fathers and children, will be displayed at the Creamery Arts Center located at 411 North Sherman Parkway beginning Friday, October 1, 2010 from 6 pm – 9 pm. This gallery is meant to call attention to the fact that the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) participants are your neighbors, co-workers, friends, teachers, grocery clerks, sales associates to name a few, who are using available resources to make the best choices for their families. WIC is a valuable program that has been assisting families across the nation in every county, state, and military base for over 30 years.

"This photography collection puts a beautiful face to the WIC program in our community. This is truly a community program that benefits these families and our local economy and improves health for our friends and loved ones," said Mary Ellison, WIC Program Coordinator.

The WIC program is a nutrition education and supplemental food program targeting qualified pregnant women, new mothers, infants and young children up to the age of 5. In addition to offering nutrition education and food vouchers for the purchase of nutritious foods to over 7,500 participants on a monthly basis, the Springfield-Greene County WIC program also provides breastfeeding assistance, promotes healthy behaviors and aids in accessing health care. To learn more about this program or to see if you qualify, contact WIC at 851-1581 or visit the website at www.springfieldmo.gov/health.

Please join us for to see the WIC program at work in our community tonight at the Creamery Arts Center from 6pm – 9pm. The photographs will remain on display at the Creamery throughout the month of October.

For more information, please contact Mary Ellison MA, MPH, WIC Program Coordinator, at 417-851-1586.