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St. John Block Party 2008 Announces Donations from Party Proceeds
November 24, 2008 – For Immediate Release

Officials representing St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and the St. John Block Party Committee have announced disbursement of donations totaling \$10,000 from last July's successful community event. Checks totaling \$9,000 have been distributed to ten organizations and another \$1,000 has been designated for sponsorship of upcoming Rochester Charitable Community Events and needs. This brings the total amount generated in five years of Block Party history to over \$70,000. This year's beneficiaries include Refugee Resettlement of Catholic Charities, Music Therapy at Mayo Eugenia Litta Children's Hospital, Boys' and Girls' Club of Rochester, Channel One Food Bank & Food Shelf, Child Care Resource and Referral Crisis Nursery, Elder Network, Good Samaritan Dental Clinic, Ability Building Center, First Steps in Education and RT Autism Awareness Foundation.

"The St. John Block Party is a wonderful example of the spirit of our parish community as together we welcome friends and neighbors to a gathering that celebrates life through good food, good music and great fellowship," said Reverend Monsignor Gerald A. Mahon, pastor of the downtown church. *"We are grateful to all who sponsor, contribute and participate in this annual coming together of the Rochester community and beyond. We are so pleased to offer these gifts of financial support to local charitable organizations with which we share a desire to be of service to others."*

The July block party has become a signature event for the city of Rochester drawing more than 5,000 people downtown each year. The caliber of nationally known artists as well as local favorites helps to draw people from the state capital and beyond to the Rochester event. Partnerships with area hotels and businesses help to defray the costs associated with producing such a large-scale event. Last year's sponsors included: Creative Cuisine Company, Silver Creek Stoneworks, Adamson Lincoln Mercury, Think Mutual Bank, Apollo Dental Center, Premier Bank, Kane & Johnson Architects, Inc, Alvin E. Benike, Inc., Kardia Health Care Systems, Northern Beverage, Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Waste Management, Radisson Hotel, and Kahler Inn and Suites.

More than 300 volunteers from St. Johns help to make the Block Party a reality – all in support of the mission to be a welcoming and hospitable community. The 2009 event promises to be better than ever. Co-chairs of the Block Party, Kurt Augustine and Steve Skiba, are already meeting with committee members as Party planning is a year-round commitment. *"We can't wait to announce details of the July 11th, 2009 party – it's our sixth year and you won't want to miss it!"*

The Church of St. John the Evangelist is a welcoming Catholic community located in downtown Rochester, Minnesota, one block west of the Mayo Clinic.

The Mission of the St. John Block Party is to reach out to the larger community with music, fun and fellowship. The St. John Block Party is an event for families, seniors, singles and anyone interested in coming together for a celebration of harmony, humanity and peace.