



MISSOURI SENATE

Jane Cunningham
7th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

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Senator Jane Cunningham Announces Tax Credits Awarded to St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf for Early Intervention Services

JEFFERSON CITY — State Senator Jane Cunningham, R-Chesterfield, recently announced the St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf in Chesterfield has been approved for \$84,706 in tax credits through the Department of Economic Development's Youth Opportunities Program.

St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf provides specialized education to children as early as two or three months of age who are deaf or hard of hearing who benefit from early intervention services through the use of assistive technology and specialized services. The organization will utilize the funds for the Molloy Center for Early Intervention.

Through the YOP tax credit program, qualified donors who make contributions to the school receive a 30-50% tax credit on their Missouri state income tax.

"Youth Opportunity Program tax credits awarded to St. Joseph Institute of the Deaf will help assist families of children with hearing loss become the first teachers of language for their children," commented Deborah Wilson, SJI president.

The Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) is designed to broaden and strengthen opportunities for positive development and participation in community life for youth and to get local, neighborhood, and community businesses involved in helping to find solutions to issues concerning youth in their communities.

"I am very pleased that this very worthwhile organization will benefit from tax credits to continue their important mission of providing education, spiritual and emotional growth, and personal development to hearing-impaired children," Sen. Cunningham said.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development describes how the program works at their website http://www.missouridevelopment.org/upload/2009_yop_guidelines-new_language2.pdf where the guidelines and application can be found. The guidelines state, "All YOP administering entities and their projects must be approved by the Department of Economic Development through an application process. The program has up to

\$6 million in tax credits to award each calendar year. The maximum for any one project is \$250,000 in tax credits. Approved administering entities must assume full responsibility for securing the needed financial support, through their own fundraising efforts. The tax credit is used as an incentive for contributors to participate. Upon receipt of contribution, the approved entity provides the contributor with the Tax Credit Application Form, which is to be completed by the entity and the contributor, and then returned to the Department of Economic Development. The contributor is eligible for a 30% or a 50% credit of the value of the contribution, depending on the type of contribution. It is the role of the Department of Economic Development to process tax credits for eligible contributors who contribute to approved projects.”

Those interested in a tax credit for their donations may call Zareena Koch at St. Joseph’s Institute for the Deaf at (636) 532-3211 or Senator Cunningham’s office.

For further information about Senator Jane Cunningham, you may visit her Senate website at www.senate.mo.gov/cunningham or contact her Chief of Staff, Lucy LePage, at (573) 751-1186.

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