



*Friends you can bank on.*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 8, 2011**

**Contact: Kevin Beckemeyer, Legence Bank President, 618-273-2271**

**Vicki Cummiskey, Legence Bank Communications, 618-513-1239**

### **Legence Bank Supports Mentors 4 Kids Program With Jean Day Donation**

Eldorado, IL—"Every child needs three to five positive, ongoing relationships with adults. Some kids don't even have one. That's why Legence Bank is happy to support the Mentors 4 Kids program," said Kevin Beckemeyer, president and CEO of Legence Bank. Legence Bank donated \$360 to Mentors 4 Kids as the designated charity for the bank's Jean Day, when employees pay \$5 to wear jeans the last Friday of the month.

Dr. Michael Handwerk, clinical child psychologist with Harrisburg Medical Center at Eldorado Primary Care and a board member with the Mentors 4 Kids program, said that since the program began accepting children in southern Illinois in the fall of 2010, more than ten local disadvantaged children are experiencing quality time with trained, caring, volunteer adult role models. Because of overwhelming need, Mentors 4 Kids has expanded to serve Saline, Franklin, Williamson, Jefferson, White, Hamilton, and Gallatin counties.

"We greatly appreciate the support of Legence Bank. Donations such as this help us reach, screen, train, create and sustain matches with mentors and mentees that best meet the needs of each child," said Handwerk. "Nurturing one-to-one relationships and community support have a direct and measurable impact on our children's decision-making and success in their lives, including lessening their likelihood of using illegal drugs and alcohol and missing school."

The Mentors 4 Kids program accepts children between the ages of 5 and 17 and adult volunteers of any age. Handwerk commented, "Although we are already touching the lives of many children in our communities, there are many more kids on a waiting list here in Saline County that desire and need a mentor. We really need mentors to help us serve these children. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about the Mentors 4 Kids program or becoming a mentor to call the Mentors 4 Kids office at 618-435-KIDS (5437) to obtain more information or application materials."

**PHOTO CUTLINE:** Dr. Michael Handwerk, board member for the Mentors 4 Kids program in southern Illinois, accepts a donation from Lynn Byrd, chief financial officer for Legence Bank. The bank chose Mentors 4 Kids as the designated charity of its monthly Jean Day employee contribution.



Member FDIC, an Equal Opportunity Housing Lender

END