



PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE *of the* MAYOR | RALPH BECKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2011
Contact: Kim Thomas
801-535-6129

New Teen Program Offers Activities, Opportunities for Growth

YouthCity reaches out to teens with free, fun afterschool opportunities

SALT LAKE CITY – The City’s Department of Public Services is pleased to announce its YouthCity division, in partnership with the Northwest Community Center, has launched a new afterschool program for teens at the Center, located at 1255 Clark Avenue (300 North).

The program, available to students age 14-18, includes skill-building classes in art, technology and noncompetitive recreation activities. Youth will also have the opportunity to participate in community service projects, get help with homework and learnleadership skills.

According to YouthCity program director Kim Thomas, there is a growing body of evidence that participation in quality activities outside of school time contribute to positive cognitive, social and emotional development for young people. Student involvement in these activities can also be protective factors against drug use, delinquency, gang involvement and bullying.

Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker said the new program is a great way to reach out to the City’s youth population.

“As a City, we continue to look for ways to create positive opportunities for our young people,” Mayor Becker said. “The YouthCity program at the Northwest Community Center can make a difference in the lives of our teens.”

The program, which is offered free of charge, runs Monday through Thursday from 5-8 p.m. For more information, contact Kim Thomas, YouthCity program director, at 801-535-6129.

YouthCity is a division of Salt Lake City's Department of Public Services with the mission to foster positive youth development by providing out-of-school time opportunities for social, emotional, character and citizenship development in an inclusive and caring environment.

###