

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

MoCHIP—Child Identification & Protection Program: Keeping Missouri Kids Safe!

Wright City, Missouri—**September 20, 2008**—With more than 57,000 children processed through the MoCHIP Child ID program in 2 ½ years, MoCHIP is clearly a presence in the community and vows to remain so! Taking place at the Strassenbash Festival, the Missouri Masonic Family will be on hand to further ensure the safety of area children FREE OF CHARGE.

No parent wants to believe that the unimaginable could happen to them, though nearly 2,000 children are reported missing or abducted in the United States each day. The peace of mind MoCHIP provides to Missouri families is invaluable. Once the child is processed through the program, which generally takes only 15 minutes, the parent is armed with a single pre-printed envelope that instructs authorities in the event of an emergency, something a parent in crisis would undoubtedly have trouble with, and a proactive measure to combat the time sensitivity involved in recovery. Within a matter of minutes the MoCHIP CD can be loaded into a computer directly from a police officers automobile and entered into the Amber Alert system.

Deemed “one of the most comprehensive child recovery and identification programs in the nation,” by The National Center for Exploited and Missing Children NCEMC—the Missouri Masonic Child Identification & Protection Program, MoCHIP is solely sponsored by the Masonic Children’s Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Missouri Masons. The program consists of five major components—digital photographs, digital fingerprints, vital child information and emergency contacts, a dental bite impression, and two laminated ID cards. The photographs, fingerprints, and child data are burned onto a mini-CD that is compatible with the AMBER

ALERT system already in place. The dental impression provides a virtual diagram of the child's biting surface, which, like fingerprints is unique to each individual, and further supplies enough saliva to provide a DNA sample that can also be used as scent source for trained canine search teams. Combined, this five-part process provides a dramatic, time-sensitive recovery tool for authorities.

On the day of the MoCHIP event, parents are urged to gather pertinent information about such as, doctor, dentist, and emergency contact and phone numbers, allergies, medications, and parent work, cell, and assorted phone numbers. Information Collection Forms and Permission slips can be downloaded from the mochip.org Web site and filled out ahead of time. Height charts and scales are available at the event to facilitate the most current details regarding the child. As would be expected, security and privacy are of utmost importance. All information and specimens are collected on site, processed and provided to the parent or legal guardian in a yellow envelope. At the end of each event, databases are erased using state-of-the-art software. The only item retained by the Masonic Children's Foundation is the signed permission slip.

The MoCHIP program was adapted from the National Masonichip Foundation, and since its inception in August 2005, MoCHIP has quickly become the most successful and thorough of the "CHIP" programs and Masonichip's "prototype" for future state programs. Collectively the CHIP programs have processed more than 1,100,000 children throughout the United States.

Sponsoring Masonic Lodge: Pauldingville Lodge #11 – Wright City, Missouri

Event Date: **September 20, 2008**

Event Time: **10:00 AM until 3:00 PM**

Event Location: **Strassenbash Festival - Diekroeger Park, Wright City, MO**

Alternate location may be at the Fire Station ¼ mile west of Park

For more information on becoming a corporate partner or to make a donation, please contact MCF Coordinator, Nicholas R. Cichielo (636-530-6069, email nickcichielo@mochip.org) or visit the calendar on our Web site www.mochip.org to locate future events in your area.