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Kennesaw to Open Center for At-Risk Youth

Kennesaw, Ga. (February 7, 2011) - The City of Kennesaw will host a Grand Opening Celebration for its new Teen Center on Saturday, February 19 from 4-7 pm. The Center will house an after-school program for at-risk youth. It is located at 2775 South Main Street, one block south of Cherokee Street, diagonally across from the pedestrian underpass and plaza in downtown Kennesaw. The celebration will include touring the facility and introducing staff, volunteers and special guests.

The purpose of the after-school program is to provide learning and enrichment opportunities for at-risk teens in our community. Recommendations by teachers or counselors will determine the participants. At the Teen Center, students will receive tutoring, homework help and college/career counseling from volunteer staff. Participants will also have access to a computer lab and recreational and gaming activities.

The program will initially operate from 3-7 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Transportation will be funded by the Cobb County School District's *Success for All Students* program.

The idea for the after-school initiative came from the city's Youth Council, a group of civic-minded high school students who provide the Mayor and Council with a youth perspective on issues concerning teens. The Youth Council, along with their liaison, Mayor Pro-Tem and City Council member Bill Thrash, assembled a plan for the at-risk teen program's development; members of the Youth Council will also serve as volunteers at the Center.

"We recognized that there were teens in our community who needed a place to go after school that was safe, educational and fun," said Councilman Thrash. "This after-school program is designed to be that kind of resource."

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