

## **Parade of Giving = Parade of Caring for Disabled Community**

Mankato, MN – Throughout history, parades have been held for all kinds of celebrations: Super Bowl wins, marching band extravaganzas, Thanksgiving Day. But Mankato is about to host a first of its kind: a Parade of Giving. An impactful, meaningful way for businesses to show their support of the brand new MRCI Thrift Store Donation Center at 121 Sioux Road (Suite 104) in Mankato.

To kick off the celebration, several area businesses have held a “donation drive” and will load up their trucks and line up in a parade of giving on May 14 at 10 a.m.. This parade signifies just how far the Thrift Store has come over the last five decades.

It was back in 1963, a group of women held a rummage sale and donated the proceeds to MRCI. From that rummage sale, the venture just kept growing and growing! Last year, the MRCI Thrift Store contributed more than \$165,000 to help MRCI’s mission of providing innovative and genuine opportunities for individuals with disabilities and disadvantages.

“This Donation Center signifies the generosity of our community and the importance of the role the Thrift Shop plays in the lives of individuals with disabilities,” says CEO Brian Benshoof. “Today more than 110 men and women regularly volunteer their time sorting, pricing and selling the items. This new donation center will make their work more efficient and will allow us to have more space in our Thrift Store to accommodate our growing donations. We thank the community for their support in donating and shopping at our store.”

Local business participating are Snell Motors, Pioneer Bank, Consolidated Communications, Federated Insurance, Eide Bailly and Blethen Behrens.

Media is invited to the parade and celebration. To schedule an interview with CEO Brian Benshoof, please contact:

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### **About MRCI**

MRCI provides innovative and genuine opportunities for people with disabilities and disadvantages to participate in their community. With a staff of more than 430, we empower more than 5,000 individuals through our locations in Chaska, Fairmont, Mankato, New Ulm, Rosemount and Shakopee. Today, MRCI is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest nonprofit human service organization in the state. For more information, please visit our website at [www.mymrci.org](http://www.mymrci.org)