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Recreation Center to open to keep children off of the street

Center to offer games, educational and culinary activities

(Somerset, NJ) June 27, 2011 – Vivian McDougald is paying tribute to her late husband and keeping children off of the streets at the same time.

The McDougald family are the owners of MAC Club House, 781 Somerset St. in Somerset. The recreational center, that will offer everything from human-size board games to video games, a media center and culinary program, will have a grand opening from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, July 1. The public is invited for tours, games and food.

Mrs. Vivian McDougald, who has been in the childcare business for more than 20 years and owns Little Children of God Preschool centers in Somerset and Piscataway, said MAC Club House is a tribute to her late husband, Arthur “Mac” McDougald.

“He’s always wanted to open a recreation center for children,” she said. “So, I took the money I received after he died and opened this in his honor.”

MAC stands for “**M**aking **A** Change.”

Vivian McDougald said her husband, who died Aug. 10, 2010, was a fixture in the community and people knew they could count on him.

“He fed people when they were hungry and he gave people shelter when they needed it. He was a loving person,” she said.

MAC Club House is opening just in time for summer.

“During the summer, children are on the street getting in trouble. I want to give them a place to go and be safe,” Vivian McDougald said.

There are three rooms in the 3,000 square-foot facility – one for media (M), activities (A) and creative and culinary arts (C).

The media room is where children will watch and make movies. Mrs. McDougald has partnered with filmmaker Earl Christian III, who has Urban Wall Street Young Producers’ Program, and will work with the children to make short movies and public

service announcements, said Benjamin F. Guy III, a consultant for MAC Club House.

The activity room boasts life-size games, such as checkers, connect four and jinga, along with air hockey, table tennis, pool and basketball. There is also a video game section in the activities room with Wii, Xbox 360 and PlayStation game units.

And students will work on art and culinary projects in the creative and culinary arts room.

“We will be teaching them about healthy eating,” Guy said.

In addition to the three rooms, there will be field trips, a book club, jewelry making and movie and family nights.

The center will be open for six to 13-year-olds from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and for the public from 6-9 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Mrs. Vivian McDougald said she wants to provide a space for children of all ages, which is why she’s opened the center at night in addition to the regular summer camp hours. .

The cost is \$135 a week for the summer camp, which includes breakfast, lunch and a snack.

For those using the center from 6-9 p.m., the cost is \$25 for three hours or \$10 an hour. The center will be staffed with five employees.

“If parents want to have a date night or have errands to run, they can just drop off their children there. It’s like a baby-sitting service,” Guy said of the late-night hours.

Once school begins, the McDougald family will add before- and after-care hours.

To enroll your child at MAC Club House or for more information, call (732) 659-6634 or e-mail contact@macclubhouse.com. Visit their website at www.macclubhouse.com.

MAC Club House is a recreational center in the heart of Somerset County. Their mission is to empower children with thoughts of a better tomorrow. They believe that by providing a clean and fun environment with core values and proven community principles for a healthy life, that they can change the future.