

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Public invited to tour newly opened transition center**

On Wednesday, February 20, 2008, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., the newest Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD) Transition Center located at 25 West Center Street in Muskegon Heights will host a public open house. The Center Street location is one of six community-based transition centers operated by the MAISD's Wesley School. The centers collectively provide instruction and guided practice for 77 students between the ages of 18 - 26 who have moderate to severe disabilities.

The center includes a kitchen, computers, and an open seating area used for instruction and socialization. Students use the center as "home base" while they participate in various learning activities within the community, including vocational training, mobility skills, daily living skills, functional academics, and recreation. Students learn to use public transportation, go shopping for necessary food items and prepare their own lunches.

The Center Street students began 2008 at the newly renovated facility. The 16 students are from Fruitport, Mona Shores, Montague, Muskegon, Muskegon Heights, Oakridge, and Reeths-Puffer school districts. At the close of 2007 students helped paint and pack, while Wesley staff assisted with renovations. Staff worked throughout break to prepare for the center's opening. The previous site was in a downtown building that was closed by management for future sale.

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