

Centene Corporation, Home State Health Plan and Gateway Greening to Host Community Gardening Event for Elementary Students at Bell Demonstration and Community Garden - Jun 17, 2014

\*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\*\*

-Excellent Visual Story Opportunity-

On Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, Centene Corporation and Home State Health Plan are partnering with Gateway Greening to host a "Get Your Garden Growing" event at Bell Demonstration and Community Garden in St. Louis. Home State Health Plan is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Centene Corporation.

This event is part of a community initiative to educate over 100 elementary-aged children, including 40 from a local Head Start program, and their families about the benefits of gardening. Award-winning children's author Michelle Bain will conduct a reading of her newest book, "Darby Bolngg Meets Chrys and the Mums." In addition to growing nutritious foods, community gardens bring people together from various backgrounds to work towards a common goal of staying fit, eating healthy and maintaining a garden in an otherwise unoccupied plot of land.

At the event, the following individuals will be available for interviews: Mary Mason, M.D., Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer for Centene; Michael Sorth, Executive Director for Gateway Greening; and author Michelle Bain.

**WHAT:** Community Gardening Event featuring book reading and gardening activity for children ages 3-5 years old.

**WHO:** Mary Mason, M.D., Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer for Centene; Michael Sorth, Executive Director for Gateway Greening; and author Michelle Bain.

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>  
Book Reading and Activities: 10-11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Bell Demonstration and Community Garden  
3871 Bell Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63108

## About Centene Corporation

Centene Corporation, a Fortune 500 company, is a leading *multi-line* healthcare enterprise that provides programs and services to government sponsored healthcare programs, focusing on under-insured and uninsured individuals. Many receive benefits provided under Medicaid, including the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), as well as Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD), Foster Care and Long Term Care (LTC), in addition to other state-sponsored/hybrid programs, and Medicare (Special Needs Plans). The company operates local health plans and offers a range of health insurance solutions. It also contracts with other healthcare and commercial organizations to provide specialty services including behavioral health, care management software, correctional systems healthcare, in-home health services, life and health management, managed vision, pharmacy benefits management, specialty pharmacy and telehealth services.

## About Home State Health Plan

Home State Health Plan™ (Home State) is a Managed Care Organization (MCO) contracted to provide services to MO HealthNet Managed Care beneficiaries in Missouri. Home State is a subsidiary of Centene Corporation (Centene), in partnership with Missouri Primary Care Association (MPCA) and participating Community Health Centers. Information regarding Home State is available via the Internet at [www.homestatehealth.com](http://www.homestatehealth.com).

## About Gateway Greening

Gateway Greening is a non-profit organization that educates and empowers people to strengthen their communities through gardening and urban agriculture. Gateway Greening has been working to provide creative, grassroots solutions to urban problems since 1984. Programs include supporting more than 200 community and youth-focused gardens across the St. Louis area through educational opportunities, grants and technical assistance; urban beautification projects that enhance the downtown St. Louis urban landscape; and City Seeds Urban Farm, a 2.5 acre farm in downtown St. Louis that provides therapeutic horticulture and jobs training programs to individuals who are homeless and underserved. For more information on Gateway Greening and its programs visit [www.gatewaygreening.org](http://www.gatewaygreening.org) or call 314-588-9600.

Contacts:	Sandy McBride	Adella Jones	Jenna Davis
	Centene Corporation	Home State Health Plan	Gateway Greening

(314) 725-4477

(636) 534-4611

(314) 588-9600, ext.  
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