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PRESS RELEASE

Union Receives Downtown Revitalization Service Grant from Missouri Main Street

Contact: Gayla Roten, State Director, Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc.
PO Box 1066, Branson, MO 65615; phone: 417-334-3014.

Union has been selected in a competitive application process to participate in the cost-sharing Community Empowerment Grant that provides training, mentoring, and technical services to revitalization programs in Missouri's historic commercial districts. The grant is provided by Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc. (MMSC)

MMSC staff will visit with community members to evaluate existing and future needs of the downtown, and then schedule a series of customized training and mentoring sessions to equip the community to concentrate on their local revitalization goals. MMSC State Director Gayla Roten noted, "This service grant offers an amazing opportunity to Union to bring the community together to preserve and revitalize the downtown district. We are excited to assist with this work!"

The goal of the grant is the development of a sustainable, volunteer-based organization that will carry out an economic development program based on the preservation of historic assets in the downtown, using the Main Street Approach™ to revitalization.

With support from MMSC, the sponsoring organization, the City of Union, anticipates:

- Comprehensive and sustainable revitalization in downtown Union.
- To build on the successes of the community and cultivate future projects for downtown Union with stakeholders in the community.

During the next two years, MMSC will provide Union with training and mentoring while engaging the entire community as participants and beneficiaries. The group will attend regional revitalization workshops and conferences conducted by MMSC.

The Community Empowerment Grant is a 60/40 matching service grant. The total value of the grant in training and mentoring services is \$30,800. Union is now designated as an Affiliate in the Missouri Main Street Tier Structure which ranks progress on standards established by Main Street America.