The College of Human Environmental Sciences is excited to announce the opening of a new community outreach center, the Family Impact Center. The Family Impact Center was developed based on a long time dream of associate dean of HES Extension, Jo Britt-Rankin. Britt-Rankin hopes that the center will serve as a community facility in which multiple entities of the University of Missouri can provide outreach programs to those in need.

The mission of the Family Impact Center is to provide life-long education to improve the quality of life of individuals in the Columbia community. In order to meet this mission, the center will provide a means for students at the University of Missouri and Columbia College to participate in practical service learning while empowering Columbia residents to develop a variety of life skills. MU Extension faculty will provide classes in the areas of stress management, relationships, financial literacy, nutrition, exercise and housing.

In addition to Extension programs, the Family Impact Center will host other outreach programs that share the mission to promote life-long education. MedZou, a student run medical clinic that provides free primary care for uninsured residents of Central Missouri, will be relocating to the Family Impact Center. MedZou teaches patients to manage their illness and to advocate for their health. The clinic utilizes a multidisciplinary team to educate patients on how to best manage their health through lifestyle modification, community services, medication, and recognition of warning signs requiring medical attention.

Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will also provide services at the Family Impact Center. VITA allows Personal Financial Planning students the opportunity to gain practical experience by providing free tax assistance and education to low income, disabled, homebound and English as a second language taxpayers. During the 2015 tax season, VITA plans to host weekly services at the Family Impact Center.

The Family Impact Center provides a means for students at the University of Missouri to participate in service learning.

Making an impact on Missouri
New center improves the quality of life for Columbia residents

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The Family Impact Center also provides an opportunity for other disciplines on campus to offer outreach to the Columbia community. The School of Social Work plans to launch the MU Social Services Clinic, which will address the disparities in the availability of comprehensive social services for the uninsured. The clinic will strive to restore mental health capacities through needs assessments, biopsychosocial assessments, case work, therapy, support groups and psychoeducational groups. MU Social Services Clinic plans to provide Social Work graduate students an opportunity to get direct client experience by providing outreach at the clinic. Services will begin in the fall semester.

The Family Impact Center is located at 105 E. Ash Street as part of a comprehensive community center. The facility is located in the heart of the Columbia community as part of a co-location with Heart of Missouri United Way. In addition, three other nonprofit organizations plan to move to the facility late this year. The goal of the facility is to allow clients to obtain multiple services all in one place.