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## McDonald's Executive to Share her Rise to Success with Bridge Communities' Homeless Families

Naperville, IL – On Thursday, October 29, 2009, Bridge Communities will welcome Karen Wells, Vice President of Strategy and Menu, McDonald's USA to speak with homeless families served through the Bridge Communities Transitional Housing Program.

Ms. Wells will share her experiences of growing up in a single-parent family facing poverty, racism and homelessness and her rise to the top of personal and professional success and happiness. Ms. Wells will help instill hope, faith and determination into the families present.

"We are delighted that Ms. Wells and her family are so interested in meeting with our client families and helping them see how success can happen, even when obstacles seem so high," shared Barbara Trczinski, education coordinator with Bridge Communities.

Karen Wells is the vice president of strategy and menu for McDonalds USA, LLC. In this role, she is responsible for developing and communicating fully integrated, cross-functional plans to drive long-term growth against core McDonald's U.S. business. Ms. Wells began her career with McDonald's in 1992 as a marketing supervisor and quickly moved through the ranks to become regional marketing manager. Shortly after she was handpicked for the McDonald's Executive Training Program; as a member of the McDonald's US Leadership Team, Ms. Wells focuses on expanding strategic partnerships and alliances across all facets of the McDonald's US businesses.

Bridge Communities expects nearly 50 families with their children at this very special event. Professional storytellers and a science teacher will be on hand to entertain the children. Bridge Communities' auxiliary group, Bridge Builders will be in attendance to oversee the children, refreshments and registration.

If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Amy Van Polen at [amy.vanpolen@bridgecommunities.org](mailto:amy.vanpolen@bridgecommunities.org) or 630-545-0610, ext. 12.

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Bridge Communities.. *connecting homeless families with a better future* ... is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, with offices in Glen Ellyn, whose mission is to provide transitional housing to homeless families in DuPage County through partnerships with faith-based and community organizations who provide mentoring relationships which root homeless families into local neighborhoods. In the past 21 years, Bridge Communities has helped over 1500 people cross the bridge from homelessness to permanent housing.