

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:

Shelli Lissick

Bellmont Partners

651-276-6922

shelli@bellmontpartners.com

Coder Dojo Computer Coding Community Coming to St. Cloud, Teaches Kids How to Develop Websites, Apps and More – for Free

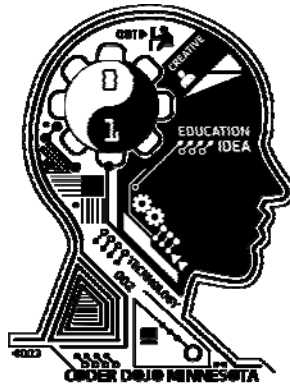
*Information session June 7th at Great River Regional Library - St. Cloud;
computer equipment and volunteers needed*

ST. CLOUD (May 29, 2014) – Know a child who loves mobile and online apps and games? Teach them how to make their own through a new, free computer coding community called Coder Dojo, starting in St. Cloud on Saturday, June 7th at 12:30 p.m. at the Great River Regional Library - St. Cloud.

With more than 424 Coder Dojos in 43 countries including a typically sold-out Twin Cities chapter, Coder Dojo is now coming to St. Cloud, thanks to local software programmer Wayne Pfeffer. Pfeffer became interested in computers at the age of 8, and knew he wanted to pursue working with computers as a career by the age of 14. This early interest in computers inspired him to give back to the St. Cloud community by starting Coder Dojo.

Run by an all-volunteer team, Coder Dojo is a group of mentors, volunteers and parents who believe that children who are interested in learning more about computers and technology should have a place where they can go to hone their skills and knowledge. Coder Dojo offers children ages 8 to 17 a place to go and learn more about computer programming, computer hardware, mobile device development as well as other aspects of computers and technology.

"I'm starting a Coder Dojo in St. Cloud because it is something that is needed, not just in St. Cloud and its surrounding area but in outstate Minnesota as a whole," says Pfeffer. "There are children everywhere who are interested in computers and technology, yet it seems that only the larger metro areas have anything available where they can go and learn more about computers and technology. Kids who are into sports have school sponsored activities they can participate in, kids interested in camping and community service have the Boy



Scouts and Girl Scouts. Now kids who are interested in technology will have Coder Dojo.”

Pfeffer is also looking for local volunteers to serve as mentors and to help with operations and logistics, new or used computer equipment (does not need to be currently operating) including laptops, desktops, keyboards, mice and monitors, as well as monetary donations. Supporters include Martin Hebig and Kristin Krone of Maverick Software Consulting, as well as individual volunteers from the St. Cloud area including Jill Eckhoff-King, Jacqueline Pfeffer, Isaac Pfeffer, Nicholas Larson, Kris Isaacson and Matt Gray.

The first Coder Dojo St. Cloud event on Saturday, June 7, is an informational session, providing children and parents an opportunity to meet others who are interested in participating as well as discuss what children would like to learn. The next Coder Dojo events will be held on June 21, July 19, August 2, August 16 and September 6, with more to be scheduled beyond September. Open to children ages 8 to 17, different code groups will focus on specific aspects of computer programming and technology. One code group may focus on beginning programming using Scratch, a language developed at M.I.T. to teach basic programming ideas and logic. Another may focus on game development using the Unity game framework.

To register for the June 7 event, visit www.griver.org/event/saint-cloud/coder-dojo/2014-06-07/18475 or contact the Great River Regional Library - St. Cloud.

For more information, or to donate equipment or become a volunteer, contact coderdojostc@gmail.com or 320-428-0234.

###