



Contact:  
Suzanne M. Thinnes  
Communications Manager  
4400 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412.578.2458 (office)  
412.983.9409 (cell)

**For Immediate Release**

## **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh receives Challenge Grant from R.K. Mellon Foundation**

*One million dollar challenge aimed to help Library reach final \$55M goal.*

**(PITTSBURGH, PA – September 10, 2008)** Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has announced a new development that will put it closer to reaching its Libraries *for* LIFE capital campaign goal of \$55 million by the end of 2008.

Responding to a request from Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Richard King Mellon Foundation approved a one million dollar challenge grant that will match contributions to the Library's *for* LIFE capital campaign. Known for its philanthropic efforts in support of literacy, the Richard King Mellon Foundation agreed to the challenge grant in order to encourage community members to donate to the capital campaign and support the Libraries that are so vital to Pittsburgh's neighborhoods. From this point forward, most gifts to the campaign made by the public will be matched in value.

"The challenge comes at a critical moment in our campaign efforts as we reach out to the entire community," says Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, President and Director, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. The Library is asking individuals to join forces with the local corporate and foundation community to support the Library's campaign to renew its neighborhood libraries, many of which were built more than one hundred years ago. "While the campaign has raised nearly \$52 million of our \$55 million goal, raising the last few million is always the hardest hurdle. This grant will help nearly every gift to count twice as much!" The Library aims to reach the \$55 million goal by the end of 2008.

Since the campaign began, the Library has renovated or relocated six neighborhood libraries and completed a partial renovation of the Main Library, First Floor. The visibility of the completed renovations has brought new vitality to each neighborhood, with all locations benefiting from increased visitor and circulation numbers. Current projects include two modern library buildings in the Hill District and North Side and an expansion and renovation of CLP – East Liberty. Opening this October, the Library's new Hill District location is the first library to be built in Pittsburgh since 1980.

For more information about Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Libraries for Life capital campaign please visit [www.carnegielibrary.org/challenge](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/challenge).

###

**About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**  
*Building Communities, Enriching Lives*

Established as a public trust in 1895, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh serves the citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County with a distinguished history of leadership among the country's great public libraries. Through its 19 neighborhood locations, including Main Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most visited asset. Each year the Library provides more than 8,000 free programs, classes and other learning and training opportunities that are tailored to meet the dynamic and diverse needs of people living in Western Pennsylvania.

### **About Libraries *for* LIFE**

While Andrew Carnegie provided the seed money to build the library facilities; he did not leave an endowment for their ongoing operations and maintenance. Thanks to local, county and state government, corporations, foundations and individuals, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Libraries *for* LIFE Capital Campaign is renewing library buildings to meet the needs of today's library customer. In 2000 Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh embarked upon a \$55 million capital campaign, the first in the Library's history, to make neighborhood libraries accessible system-wide. Since the campaign began, the Library has renovated or relocated six neighborhood libraries and completed a partial renovation of the Main Library, First Floor. The visibility of the completed renovations has brought new vitality, with all locations benefiting from increased visitor and circulation numbers.