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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Pittsburgh's Newest Library Opens!**

*After a three-year hiatus, library service on the North Side resumes  
with opening of CLP – Allegheny*

**(PITTSBURGH, PA – August 29, 2009)** Today, more than 400 North Side residents, community leaders and public officials helped open the city's newest library. The grand opening celebration of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Allegheny, located at 1230 Federal Street, marks the restoration of library service to the community.

"Libraries serve as crucial links to literacy, resources and information, as well as catalysts for continued economic development," said Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, President and Director, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. "This library exists as a hub of community activity in a time when the neighborhood is quickly changing and growing."

Library supporters, including Luke Ravenstahl, Mayor of Pittsburgh, Jim Ferlo, State Senator, District 38, Wayne Fontana, State Senator, District 42, Tonya Payne, City of Pittsburgh Council District 6, Frederick W. Thieman, Esq., President of the Buhl Foundation, Herman Jones, Allegheny Regional Asset District Board member, Leo Baumbach, a student at Allegheny Traditional Academy and many other local community members joined Dr. Mistick to cut the ribbon to officially open the building. After the ribbon cutting, Ian Lawler, one of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's young cardholders, placed the final book, *Allegheny Story* by William L. Rimmel, on its proper shelf in the Library's Allegheny City Historic Reading Room.

The event capped a two-day celebration that included an open house complete with tours, entertainment, storytellers, activities and crafts. On Friday, August 28, Greta and Art Rooney II joined Diane Holder, Executive Vice President, UPMC, Scott Izzo, Director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Charlie Batch, Jean Robinson, Chair, Board of Directors, The Buhl Foundation, former Pittsburgh Steelers running back Franco Harris and other community leaders to toast the success of the library at a sold-out Champagne Luncheon. Proceeds of the luncheon benefit the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Libraries *for* LIFE Capital Campaign.

A 15,500 square foot lot was transformed into one-level library that complements the street line with the look and feel of a two-story building. In addition to a teen corner and children's area, the \$6 million facility offers two unique features – an Allegheny City Historic Reading Room and an outdoor children's terrace. CLP – Allegheny is also equipped with wireless Internet, a multipurpose room, reading space and is fully accessible for the physically challenged in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Located along the Federal/North corridor, CLP – Allegheny is within easy walking distance to a number of schools, homes and local businesses. The Library is the first among new construction projects along the corridor that includes townhomes, a coffee shop and bank.

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## **ADD 1**

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As with all of the Library's recent renovations and renewals, CLP – Allegheny is an environmentally-friendly building. Renewable resources, natural lighting and energy conscious mechanical and electrical systems are a sampling of the ways Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh will seek to achieve LEED certification for the building. In addition, the Library, as always, is committed to using local workers and Women and Minority Owned Businesses. The project boasts a 33.7% MBE/WBE participation, a rate that exceeds goals set forth by the URA.

Pittsburgh's North Side community has been without direct library service since April 7, 2006 when the building, in which the library operated, was struck by a lightning. The lightning strike caused severe damage to the building's steeple and roof resulting in damage to major components of the air handling systems and roof structure. No one was injured during the incident and none of the library's materials or computers were damaged.

For the past three years North Side community members have worked with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to plan and design a new library building. The successful completion the library comes at an important time with library use rising during the nation's economic downturn. The completion of the library marks the ninth project in Carnegie Library's Capital Campaign and the second freestanding library built under the Library's Capital Campaign.

"Ironically, while the Library has improved more than one half of our branch system, we are projecting the possibility of needing to close or consolidate branches if we can't reduce operating costs or sustain revenues," said Mistick. "We believe that broad support from the community is critically important to the Library's future financial security and self-sufficiency."

Library currently estimates that expenses for the system will begin to exceed revenues beginning in 2010, and that the deficit will continue to grow to more than \$6 million by 2014.

In 1895, philanthropist Andrew Carnegie dedicated the Main library of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and proclaimed it "free to the people." While he provided the seed money to build the first public library to bear his name in Pittsburgh, he did not endow its on-going costs, as he believed the community and local government should take ownership and responsibility for such a valuable community asset. The

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh officials encourage library supporters to take part *Pittsburgh Protect Your Library*, a grass-roots effort to write and talk to funders and local community leaders who can influence a change in annual operating funding opportunities for the library system.

For more information about Library hours, programming and advocacy efforts, please visit [www.carnegielibrary.org](http://www.carnegielibrary.org)

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### **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**

*Building Communities, Enriching Lives*

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 governments, 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 eight neighborhood libraries and completed a partial renovation of the Main Library, First Floor. CLP-Allegheny is the eighth library to be completed in the system-wide renewal, and the city's second newly constructed library since 1980. To date, the Library's efforts have resulted in significant investment in Pittsburgh neighborhoods, providing a range of library services and programs for children, teens and adults and facilities that accommodate new collections and 21st century technology.

**About Libraries for LIFE**

*Sustaining our Future*

In 2009 Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh began a community dialogue to engage the region's citizens in protecting the long-term sustainability of the City's library system.