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For Immediate Release

**Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped Director
Appointed to Governor's Advisory Committee**

(PITTSBURGH, November 24, 2009) – Kathleen Kappel, Director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH), has been appointed by Governor Ed Rendell to the Governor's Advisory Committee for the Blind.

The Committee advises the Governor on blindness issues through the Pennsylvania Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS) and holds special events at the Capitol.

"I am honored to perform in this capacity and welcome the opportunity to further services for Pennsylvanians with blindness and low vision," said Mrs. Kappel. "Pennsylvania has been active in developing programs and services to support people with visual limitations and further their desire to live independently."

Mrs. Kappel observed that "During these trying economic times, it is imperative that we not forget the particular concerns and needs of this community, and assist them in attaining their aspirations and contributing as citizens of the Commonwealth."

BBVS operates under the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), which is part of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry. OVR helps individuals to prepare for or retain employment.

The Governor's Advisory Committee for the Blind advises OVR's Executive Director in all program and service areas including Vocational Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Teaching, Independent Living, Orientation & Mobility, Specialized Services and the Business Enterprise Program.

The Committee was established by Governor Tom Ridge in 1999. Mrs. Kappel's appointment is for five years.

Mrs. Kappel has been Director of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped since 2002 and has more than three decades of experience in library service for individuals with disabilities. During her tenure as Director, LBPH has garnered numerous awards including the prestigious Network Library of the Year Award presented by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), part of the Library of Congress.

Originally from Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Kappel now resides in the Pittsburgh area. She holds both a Master of Library Science degree and a Bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Pittsburgh. In addition, she received certification in Management Skills from the Katz Graduate School of Business.

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Locally, Mrs. Kappel has served on the City of Pittsburgh Disabilities Task Force, the Pennsylvania Library Association Southwest Chapter Committee on Intellectual Freedom and the Pittsburgh City Theatre's Advisory Board for Accessibility. She is also a member of the Women's International Club at the University of Pittsburgh. She is asked regularly to review grant applications by Commonwealth Libraries of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Kappel is a national voice on library services for individuals with disabilities and has served on the NLS Long-Term Planning Group for Digital Talking Books and Collection Development Committee.

To learn more about the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services visit www.dli.state.pa.us. Information about LBPH is available online at www.carnegielibrary.org/lbph.

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About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

To Engage our Community in Literacy and Learning

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, with 2.6 million visitors in 2008. Each year the Library provides valuable resources, programs, classes and training opportunities that engage the community in literacy, and life-long learning.

About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (LBPH)

Provides free library services to eligible Western Pennsylvania residents with visual or physical disabilities. Audio books and magazines, equipment to play the recordings, large print books, described videos and Braille materials are mailed and returned postage-free to registered readers.