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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Library Faces Funding Challenge

*Level funding for 2009 forces service hours reduction at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Main*

**(PITTSBURGH, PA – December 30, 2008)** Effective January 2, 2009 Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is decreasing hours of operation by two hours a week at the Main Library in Oakland. The reduced hours will affect weekend service only, with CLP – Main opening one hour later on Friday and Saturday. The decrease comes at a critical time when local funding for library services remains flat, state funding is reduced for 2009 and library use continues to rise.

An economic impact study conducted by Carnegie Mellon University's Center for Economic Development touts Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh as the region's most visited asset. To date, more than 612,000 people visited CLP – Main this year to access job searches, utilize free high speed Internet and gain early literacy skills.

“Libraries are a critical community resource,” said Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, President and Director, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. “The services libraries provide can and do make a difference in people’s lives. Historically, as the economy slows more people depend on the Library. We were reluctant to reduce hours at a time when people need us the most. However, this is the best way we can stay within our budget and still maintain other services.”

Since 1895 CLP – Main has been a tradition for Pittsburgh families. The Library was the first to offer Children's and Science & Technology departments among U.S. public libraries. CLP – Main is home to the Library's Job & Career Education Center, Pennsylvania Department, Reference Services, Music Department, Film & Audio, and William R. Oliver Special Collections Room.

In 2008 the Library was able to add 156 hours at CLP – Main, and in 2007 it added twenty four hours a week at nine neighborhood locations because of increased financial support from the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD). Created in 1994, RAD is tasked with distributing one half of the Allegheny County 1% sales tax to libraries, parks, cultural and civic entities and sports facilities. The other half goes directly to Allegheny County and the municipal governments for tax reform, support of intergovernmental cooperation programs and general government operations.

“Our dependence on sales tax has made us more vulnerable in these difficult economic times,” said Mistick. The Library is continuing to build its private funding base, but RAD funding accounts for nearly 70% of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's annual operating budget. The public is often surprised to learn that Andrew Carnegie did not endow the Library's operations. Rather he funded the initial buildings and expected the community to support such a valuable resource.

Customers may visit [www.carnegielibrary.org](http://www.carnegielibrary.org) for hours of operation for all Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh locations.

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main Hours of Operation**

**Effective: January 2, 2009**

Sunday	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Monday	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Thursday	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friday	10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday	10:00 am - 5:30 pm

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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**

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.