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Gourmet Sampler Kicks Off Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – South Side’s 100th Anniversary in the Community

(PITTSBURGH, PA – September 24, 2008) Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – South Side will host its annual *A Taste of the South Side: Gourmet Sampler* on Friday, October 3 at 7 pm. This year’s event will kick off a year-long celebration in honor of the Library’s 100th anniversary in that neighborhood.

In addition to sampling a variety of delicious hors d’oeuvres, wines and signature drinks donated by the South Side’s exclusive restaurants and caterers, participants may bid on several silent auction items. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Friends of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh—South Side, a group of advocates organized in 1982 to support their neighborhood library. Proceeds from the various Friends activities help Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – South Side purchase a variety of materials and supplies for children’s programming.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – South Side opened in 1909 and welcomed 10,000 visitors in the first week. The South Side of 1909 was a neighborhood filled with many nationalities, and the library provided books in a variety of languages in order to accommodate the entire community. Today, the Library remains an important part of the South Side community offering a variety of free entertainment, training and literature-based programs for all members of the family.

Tickets to *A Taste of the South Side: Gourmet Sampler* are \$18 and can be purchased by calling 412.431.0505 or by visiting Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – South Side at 2205 East Carson Street.

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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. CLP-Hill District is the seventh library to be completed in the system-

wide renewal, and the city's first newly constructed library since 1980. The visibility of the completed renovations has brought new vitality, with all locations benefiting from increased visitor and circulation numbers.