



Contact:
Suzanne M. Thinnis
Communications Manager
4400 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412.578.2458 (office)
412.688.8609 (cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colcom Foundation Grant Awarded to Enhance Library Service to City Residents

(PITTSBURGH, PA – January 22, 2010) City residents will have greater opportunity to engage with library staff and services thanks to a grant to expand Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s community outreach programs. The Colcom Foundation recently awarded a \$150,000 grant to the Library in support of outreach services for children and teens in the City of Pittsburgh. Outreach programs will bring library services into the community, with emphasis on providing children greater access to literacy opportunities.

“This grant is an important step in engaging our community in essential library services beyond the walls of library buildings,” said Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, President and Director, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. “Pittsburgh has been recognized as one of the nation’s most literate cities. We have a wonderful opportunity in front of us to expand invaluable literacy and learning opportunities to children. I applaud the Colcom Foundation for their foresight in shaping the future of library service.”

“When listing the component parts of a livable community, it would be impossible to overlook the local library,” said John F. Rohe, Vice-President - Philanthropy, Colcom Foundation. “It’s a privilege for the foundation to help secure Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh.”

The grant will provide the opportunity for Library staff to be out in the community more frequently by visiting day care centers, schools and community-based organizations. Children and teens throughout the city will receive outreach services, including storytimes, gaming opportunities and author visits, at childcare centers and public, private and parochial schools.

Librarians will also collaborate with after-school and summer programs to provide literacy experiences, including the Library’s Summer Reading Program. In addition, the Library’s outreach team will be available to provide services at open houses, parent meetings and other school and community events. The Library is also exploring the possibility of bringing collections, literacy programs, digital resources and computer instruction to underserved neighborhoods through mobile units.

Community members interested in learning more about the Library collections and services and how they can help protect Pittsburgh’s libraries may view information online at www.carnegielibrary.org.

###

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 Colcom Foundation

The primary mission of the Colcom Foundation is to foster a sustainable environment to ensure quality of life for all Americans by addressing major causes and consequences of overpopulation and its adverse effects on natural resources. Regionally, the Foundation supports conservation, environmental projects and cultural assets.