



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Receives Nearly \$500,000 in Grants

(PITTSBURGH, PA – February 15, 2010) Recent grants awarded to Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh will enable the Library to preserve historical collections, provide free computer training classes and produce energy efficient upgrades to its East Liberty location. Grants awarded to the Library help offset increasing costs of services as Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh continues to face the threat of level or decreased funding. Grants included:

The **Eichleay Foundation** provided a \$15,000 grant to support the relocation of the Library's valuable Heritage Collection to CLP – East Liberty. Encompassing more than 150,000 volumes, including many unique historic reference items that preserve the heritage of the Western Pennsylvania region as well as the nation, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Heritage Collection includes government documents and histories, Civil War materials, rare print editions of local newspapers and journals, various directories, oversized maps, art folios, serial titles primarily from the sciences and social sciences, Pennsylvania Department reference volumes, United States government documents, British Patents and drawings from 1617. The relocation of the Heritage Collection will ensure community access to the materials as well as their ongoing preservation and conservation. For the past three years the Library's preservation staff has been working to safeguard these valued materials in original form and through digitization.

In addition, an **Anonymous donor** pledged \$250,000 toward the purchase of compact shelving and additional materials to support this project. The gift is contingent on the Library raising matching funds by August 2010.

Laurel Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to support the Library's Basic Computer Training Lab. Each year the Library hosts more than 200 free classes, including basic introduction to computers, Microsoft Office Products, the Internet and file management for community residents, particularly those without access to computers. In recent months the Library has experienced a heavy demand for basic computer instruction. All programs are designed to provide students with a working knowledge of basic computer functions and experience with popular software for both personal and professional needs.

PA Conservation Grant Works provided for capital needs at CLP – East Liberty with a \$224,500 grant. The funds will help upgrade the building's roof, walls and glass windows, providing environmental and energy benefits. The new roof will include high performance rigid insulation, and the walls will be super-insulated with a combination of rigid and batt insulation. The existing windows will be replaced with high performance thermally broken low-e insulated glass, which allows for environmental and energy benefits. Renovation work at CLP – East Liberty began last year. The building is expected to reopen in fall 2010.

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

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About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Engaging 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 more than 2 million visitors annually. Each year the Library provides valuable resources, programs, classes and training opportunities that engage the community in literacy, and life-long learning.