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For Immediate Release

Construction Begins on Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's New North Side Library

(PITTSBURGH, PA – May 9, 2008) The site of an abandoned gas station on Pittsburgh's North Side will soon become a beacon for literacy and learning. This morning community leaders helped Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh officials break ground on the city's newest library.

Located in an area poised for economic growth, the new library will be located on a 16,500 square foot lot at 1210 Federal Street, within walking distance to a number of homes, schools and businesses. The one-level building will compliment the street line, with the look and feel of a two-story building. In addition to a teen section, dedicated children's programming area and children's outdoor terrace, the library will feature an Allegheny City Room designed to showcase the historical collections of the neighborhood. When completed, the new library will also be equipped with wireless Internet, a multipurpose room, reading nook and handicapped accessibility. Project costs are estimated at approximately \$6 million.

"Just like Andrew Carnegie and his mentor, Colonel Anderson, the Library is committed to providing a strong foundation that includes literacy and learning opportunities that are free to the people," said Dr. Barbara K. Mistick, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh President & Director. "The Library is leading economic revitalization in the Federal/North corridor and we look forward to working with our neighbors to bring more vitality to the area."

This will be the second new facility built from the ground up under the organization's *Libraries for LIFE* capital campaign. The Library's new Hill District branch on the corner of Centre Avenue and Kirkpatrick Street is set to open this fall. Previous renovations have proved to be models for economic growth, with customers spending a total of \$9.8 million to \$15.6 million annually at nearby businesses. Since the campaign's inception in 2000, the Library has renovated or relocated six neighborhood libraries and completed a partial renovation of the Main Library, First Floor.

During the groundbreaking ceremony Dr. Mistick was joined by Jacqui Fiske Lazo, Chair, Board of Trustees, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; Dan Onorato, Allegheny County Executive; Luke Ravenstahl, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh; Fred Thieman, President, Buhl Foundation; and many other local community members including children from three local elementary schools.

As with all of the Library's recent renovations and renewals, design plans call for an environmentally-friendly building. Renewable resources, natural lighting and energy conscious mechanical and electrical systems are a sampling of the ways Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh will seek to achieve LEED certification for the North Side library. In addition, the Library is committed to using local workers and Women and Minority Owned Businesses. Library officials anticipate that the new library will welcome its first visitors in 2009.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: An artist's rendering of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's newest library is available at www.carnegielibrary.org/about/cjp for publication. Please call 412.578.2458 to schedule an interview with Dr. Barbara K. Mistick.

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.