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STRIVE MODEL SPREADING TO OTHER CITIES

Near \$1 Million investment to be announced at upcoming Strive event

Cincinnati, Ohio and Newport/Covington, Kentucky. April 29, 2009: Living Cities, a collaborative of 21 of the world's largest foundations and financial institutions, recently announced a near \$1 Million investment into solving one of the most complicated challenges facing our country today – making the shift from a 19th century factory education model to a 21st century system of learning. Ben Hecht, President and CEO of Living Cities will make the official announcement of this initiative at the April 29, 2009 event to release the 2009 *Striving Together* report. This event will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Drees Pavilion in Covington.

Over the next year, Strive, our local education partnership, will be working collaboratively with four selected universities to create and strengthen cradle through career education partnerships in their respective cities that ensure every child can be successful. Through an extensive proposal review process, the following have been chosen as best poised to build localized, comprehensive partnerships that use data to drive the education transformation necessary to meet the needs of a 21st century learner. The four sites are:

- California State University, East Bay (Hayward, California)
- Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (Indianapolis, Indiana)
- University of Houston (Houston, Texas)
- Virginia Commonwealth University, (Richmond, Virginia)

More specifically, these sites and Strive will collectively define how a community can:

- **Focus a Community on Results from Cradle through Career.** Each site will have established a process for driving broad community ownership of a new system of education that can transform our outdated education model. These sites will establish concrete student outcomes as the driver of educational improvements and all the resources in the community inside and outside the traditional classroom will be focused on student success.
- **Affirm Universities as Community Anchors.** The power of universities as conveners and change agents will be exemplified in each partnership. Every community across the country can leverage these institutions to drive improvements in their community.

- **Invest Precious Resources in What Works.** These communities will establish sustainable mechanisms to ensure public and private dollars have maximum impact and focus on the unique needs of each child.

Each site will receive \$100,000 to fund operational support and technical assistance to drive successful implementation in the selected sites. The sites will join Strive to form the Education Partnership Implementation Network (EPIN) that will strengthen themselves through sharing best practices and be a valuable resource to future partnerships in other cities.

“One of our nation's greatest tragedies is students dropping out of school before they get a high school diploma and go on to college. With the help of Living Cities, Strive will now build on the model we have created in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region and work with four other sites across the nation to address this problem,” said Nancy Zimpher, president of the University of Cincinnati and a co-founder of Strive.

Separately, but with clear intent to support the Strive model, Living Cities is also providing a \$250,000 capacity-building grant to the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), furthering the advancement of universities as transformational community anchors. USU is a partnership of 39 urban universities from across the nation who have all committed to ensuring their institutions guide the revitalization of their communities.

Jeff Edmondson, executive director of Strive, comments, “We look forward to working with and learning from other sites around the country to help build partnerships that create a new vision for education, while working to efficiently and effectively incorporate all resources in the community to ensure students are prepared from birth to succeed in the 21st Century.”

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About Strive

Strive drives the success of our children, from cradle to career. Founded in 2006, Strive is a unique education partnership spanning all sectors of Greater Cincinnati society. Together, we're working to help each child in our urban core succeed from birth through some form of college into a meaningful career. Strive unites common providers around shared issues, goals, measurements and results, and then actively supports and strengthens strategies that work. Strive is focused on home, school and community: the building blocks for successful students, productive citizens and thriving cities. Strive, LLC, is a subsidiary of KnowledgeWorks Foundation and can be found on the Web at www.strivetogether.org.

About Living Cities

Founded in 1991, Living Cities is an innovative philanthropic collaborative of 21 of the world's largest foundations and financial institutions. Our members are not simply funders. They participate at the senior management level on the Living Cities Board of Directors and contribute the time of 80+ expert staff toward crafting and implementing our agenda, which is focused on improving the lives of low-income people and the urban areas in which they live.

Members: AARP Foundation, AXA Community Investment Program, Bank of America, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Citigroup, J.P. Morgan Chase & Company, Deutsche Bank, Ford Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, MetLife, Inc., Prudential Financial, The Rockefeller Foundation, Surdna Foundation **Affiliate Members:** The Cleveland Foundation, The Skillman Foundation