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EMBARGOED UNTIL 11AM, FEBRUARY 26, 2010

MAYOR RAWLINGS-BLAKE, BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOL CEO DR. ALONSO JOIN THE GOLDSEKER FOUNDATION TO ANNOUNCE RECIPIENTS OF FIRST NEIGHBORHOOD-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS TOTALING \$435,000
New & experimental partnerships encourage neighborhoods and schools to work together to build stronger schools in Healthy Neighborhoods

Baltimore, MD. Recognizing the interdependence of neighborhoods and schools—the quality of one directly impacting the quality of the other—the Goldseker Foundation today announced grants to five Neighborhood-School Partnerships in Baltimore City totaling \$435,000. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore City Public School CEO Dr. Andrés Alonso, the Goldseker Foundation President Dr. Timothy Armbruster, Healthy Neighborhoods Inc. President Mark Sissman and Catholic Schools Associate Superintendent Dr. Skipp Sanders, along with schoolchildren and representatives from the schools and their respective neighborhoods, made the announcement during an event on February 26, 2010, held at one of the partner schools, Calvin M. Rodwell Elementary School, located at 3501 Hillsdale Road in the Howard Park neighborhood of Baltimore City.

“Now is an opportune time to explore new ways to connect strong schools and strong neighborhoods in Baltimore,” remarked Timothy Armbruster, President of the Goldseker Foundation. “We want to stimulate creative thinking about how neighborhoods and schools can work together to build from strength and tell the story about the good things happening in these communities.”

Neighborhood-School Partnership initiative: The Goldseker Foundation created the Neighborhood-School Partnership initiative to encourage joint neighborhood and school improvement strategies that will result in two positive outcomes:

1. Enhance the desirability of neighborhoods due to high-quality schools, well-maintained properties, and strong community connections
2. Increase enrollment and academic quality at schools serving children living in Healthy Neighborhoods.

Healthy Neighborhoods: The Goldseker Foundation helped to create the Healthy Neighborhoods program with a \$125,000 grant in 2001. Healthy Neighborhoods helps strong but undervalued Baltimore neighborhoods increase home values, market their communities and create high standards for property improvements, while forging strong connections among neighbors. The program has been a catalyst for residential investment, while the current school reform environment in Baltimore City has led to an increasing number of quality public school options to complement an existing network of strong private schools in the city.

“We’d like to see the education, community development, and public and private funding sectors working together to leverage investments in schools and neighborhoods for greater impact,” said Armbruster. “Forging stronger connections between schools and

neighborhoods is one more step in making the city more responsive and attractive to a wide range of families, including Baltimore's growing middle class."

Grant Criteria: Schools were required to meet certain criteria to be eligible to apply:

1. Geographic criteria – school serves children from a Healthy Neighborhood
2. Academic performance levels – above average MSA scores on reading and math or similar quantitative measure for nonpublic schools
3. Parent satisfaction – above average grade on the Baltimore City Public Schools satisfaction survey or similar quantitative measure for nonpublic schools
4. Vision -- their vision for the future that would make the school even stronger and more competitive so that the school would be a family's first choice for their child's enrollment

Schools were required to apply in partnership with a Healthy Neighborhoods community organization. The schools and neighborhood organizations worked together, involving parents and the broader community, to develop their vision and propose a use of grant funds to achieve it.

Grant Objectives and Funding: Individual schools received grants of between \$20,000 - \$50,000 to be used on academic enhancement activities to help to recruit and retain new families. Neighborhood partners received grants of between \$20,000 - \$30,000 to support community organizing and the integration of the school into the Healthy Neighborhood marketing plan. Partnerships also received \$5,000 to carry out the activities of the marketing strategy. The objectives of the marketing activities are to build upon the academic enhancement investments to:

1. Recruit and retain families with school age children to choose to live in Healthy Neighborhoods
2. Increase enrollment of middle class families from Healthy Neighborhoods in local neighborhood schools (public, private, or parochial).

Types of Schools Chosen: All schools selected for awards exceeded citywide averages in their reading and math test scores, and several exceeded statewide averages. In addition, the schools selected for funding represent a broad array of education options, including Catholic parochial, traditional public, and public charter; each with its own unique set of academic and extracurricular programs.

The Selected Neighborhood-School Partnerships and Grant Amounts are:

CHAI - Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. - (\$25,000 for core operating support and marketing) *in partnership with* **Cross Country Elementary/Middle** (\$50,000 for technology integration)

Garwyn Oaks Northwest Housing Resource Center (\$25,000 for core operating support and marketing) *in partnership with* **Calvin M. Rodwell Elementary** (\$50,000 for the WeatherBug Science Curriculum)

Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council (\$25,000 for core operating support and marketing) *in partnership with* **Gwynns Falls Elementary** (\$50,000 for the Child First after school program)

Neighborhoods of Greater Lauraville, Inc. (\$20,000 in core operating support, \$5,000 for marketing, and \$15,000 to be managed by NOGLI for joint use by the three

partnership schools for professional development and collaborative student activities), *in partnership with* **City Neighbors Charter School** (\$25,000 for arts integration programming), **Hamilton Elementary/Middle** (\$20,000 to enhance the science curriculum), and **St. Francis of Assisi School** (\$20,000 to expand physical education programming)

Greater Homewood Community Corporation (\$35,000 for core operating support and marketing) *in partnership with* **Barclay Elementary/Middle** (\$35,000 for training and implementation of a thematic, project-based curriculum), **Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle** (\$35,000 for training and implementation of a thematic, project-based curriculum)

“The cornerstone of a strong neighborhood is great schools. When we excel in educating our young people, our communities prosper,” remarked Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. “Investing in partnerships that help us strategically leverage our limited resources will help Baltimore move forward.”

“This initiative and generous funding opportunity made possible by the Goldseker Foundation allows some of our strong schools to get even stronger. More importantly, it emphasizes a key tenet of the transformation underway in City Schools—the critical role of families and communities in the success of our schools,” said Dr. Andrés A. Alonso, Baltimore City Public Schools CEO. “On behalf of City Schools, and the Neighborhood-School Partnership schools in particular, our true thanks to Goldseker and Baltimore’s Healthy Neighborhoods for rallying around our kids. These grants allow participating schools to invest in new initiatives to continue and build on existing success—and to solidify their place among City Schools great school options for families.”

ABOUT THE GOLDSEKER FOUNDATION:

The Goldseker Foundation was created in 1973 through the generosity and foresight of Morris Goldseker. Mr. Goldseker directed in his will that the Foundation be formed to support programs that directly benefit the people of the metropolitan area of Baltimore. Since that time, the Foundation has granted more than \$70 million to over 400 nonprofit organizations in metropolitan Baltimore, including \$3.8 million in 2009. It has been one of the first funders of many innovative initiatives dedicated to making the Baltimore region economically competitive and attractive to a wide range of talented people, including a growing middle class, such as Healthy Neighborhoods, Live Baltimore, Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, and now the Neighborhood-School Partnership Grant program. More information about the Foundation can be found on its website, www.goldsekerfoundation.org.

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