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For Immediate Release

Carnegie Library's Technology Playground Helps Customers Imagine the Future

(PITTSBURGH, PA – April 17, 2009) Today's library is more than a collection of books. The library is a technology playground where video games, Web resources, databases and virtual reference librarians connect with modern library users. On Saturday, April 25 visitors to Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh will have the opportunity to experience new technology at a multi-dimensional, interactive family event. From 1 – 4 pm visitors at CLP – Main in Oakland (4400 Forbes Avenue) can share their memories or hopes for the future on a video or audio podcast, play Nintendo Wii, browse the Library's collection of downloadable books and movies and discover an online chat reference tool that uses live librarians to help find information.

Throughout the building, ten unique stations will be set-up to introduce customers to new library services:

Watch a movie, Download a book, Enjoy live music!

The Library's eCLP resources are a great way to access films, audio books and streaming music - even after hours! Library staff will show customers how to catch up on classic movies, learn a new language or try a new exercise routine via eCLP.

Read a book, Write a story!

Library customers can watch and listen to children's books via Bookflix, a library service that turns any Internet-ready computer into a learning portal. Children are invited to explore *my StoryMaker*, a hands-on storytelling activity where they get to choose the characters, setting and action.

Rock out, Get fit, Save the world!

Gaming has come a long way since Space Invaders. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh provides equipment, software and programming for gamers of all ages! Customers are encouraged to stop by to try out Nintendo Wii and Playstation consoles to become a guitar hero, improve their health or learn some dance moves.

Tour our Web site, Explore the Catalog

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Web site is constantly changing and growing! Library staff will give customers an overview of the features and content that are often overlooked.

Share a memory, Imagine the future

Fifteen minutes of fame via video! Customers are invited to record their personal history or share thoughts about the possibilities of life in Pittsburgh. Camera shy? Record a podcast over the phone instead!

Connect, explore, create!

Blogs, del.icio.us, Facebook, Web 2.0...what does it all mean? Learn how the Library is using new technologies to help people learn, connect and contribute.

ADD 1 Carnegie Library's Technology Playground Helps Customers Imagine the Future

Ask questions, Get answers 24/7

Did you know the library is always open online? Or that students can get live online homework help between 3 and 10 p.m. every weeknight with a CLP library card? The Library's Reference Services staff will demonstrate how to chat live with a librarian or tutor, even when the library is closed.

Take a test, Explore career opportunities

Check in with the Library's JCEC staff to see how their electronic database resources can help people move to the next level at work or at school.

Search like an expert, Get back to basics

Online content has improved by leaps and bounds, but there are still countless historical newspapers and magazines that are not on the 'Net yet. Visit the Library's Microfilm Department to learn the secrets of the smartest searchers and take advantage of an old-school technology that's still going strong.

Explore the past, Discover your roots

Use contemporary technology to learn more about our country's historical documents, as well as research genealogy. Our librarians will demonstrate two great electronic tools, the Footnote and Ancestry.com databases.

Customers who visit at least three Technology Playground stations during the event will qualify to win one of four gift cards to Best Buy. Visit www.carnegielibrary.org for more information regarding the Technology Playground or Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh resources.

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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 Libraries *for* LIFE

Building Communities, Enriching Lives

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 governments, 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 seven neighborhood libraries and completed a partial renovation of the Main Library, First Floor. CLP-Hill District is the seventh library to be completed in the system-wide renewal, and the city's first newly constructed library since 1980. To date, the Library's efforts have resulted in significant investment in Pittsburgh neighborhoods, providing a range of library services and programs for children, teens and adults and facilities that accommodate new collections and 21st century technology.