

Link Community School
120 Livingston Street
Newark, NJ 07103
Serving Newark for 40 Years

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR PRESS INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:
Sharon Machrone, Director of Communications
973-642-5343, smachrone@linkschool.org

**LINK COMMUNITY SCHOOL RECEIVES
\$1 MILLION GIFT**

SINGLE LARGEST GIFT TO LINK

Newark, NJ (February 11, 2009) – Link Community School announced today a \$1 million gift from an anonymous donor. The gift marks an inspiring milestone, as the single largest contribution in Link’s history. The gift will provide endowment and capital support for the school.

“The timing of this generous gift is so fitting as we celebrate our 40th year serving Newark’s youth and look forward to securing the future of the school for the next generation,” said **Marnie G. McKoy, Link Community School Principal**. “Further, this gift is a wonderful confirmation of the impact Link has and will continue to make on our students.” In the recent MSNBC program, *A Father’s Promise*, **Cory A. Booker, Mayor of the City of Newark**, participating in a roundtable discussion with Ms. McKoy and others, stated that he visited Link Community School and found it to be “an island of excellence.”

“This gift is clearly an acknowledgment of the school’s commitment to long-term financial stability; to providing a physical environment that supports teaching and learning; to enhancements to the academic and personal development components of the school; and to providing access to an excellent educational setting for students whose families could not otherwise afford it,” added Mrs. McKoy.

Link Community School provides a powerful learning community for its students and teachers, where both are supported in meaningful ways and held accountable to high standards. Using a balanced approach to academic growth and personal development, Link exposes students to a rigorous academic program that narrows gaps, builds core skills, and readies students for competitive high schools and to a co-curricular program that enriches their lives with a strong emphasis on the arts, electives in a wide range of disciplines, summer learning, outdoor experiential education, and athletics. Throughout all components of the program, core values are interwoven to build a firm foundation of character in our students. Understanding that successful learning depends on a motivated and well-qualified staff, Link ensures professional development that is meaningful and practical as it reinforces our teachers' and administrators' commitment to educating urban youth. By keeping teachers on a continuum of growth in content knowledge, classroom management, and instruction, teachers are always improving their craft and sharing best practices. At the core of Link's school culture is a deep sense of community, which is intentionally developed with parents, faculty/administrators, and students.

Link was founded in the spirit of social justice by the Sisters of St. Dominic, from Caldwell, New Jersey in the wake of the 1967 riots that devastated Newark. With little economic or educational opportunity, Newark youngsters in the 1960s were confronted with many challenges. With a bold plan for meeting the needs of Newark youngsters, in 1969, the Dominican Sisters opened a school for the community. Since then, the school has expanded to serve students in the surrounding urban communities from families with limited economic means. For 40 years, Link Community School has changed the lives of over 2,000 youngsters by preparing them for further educational achievement and life. For more information on Link Community School, go to www.linkschool.org.

###