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CONTACT: Timothy J. Maloney
513-632-2118
tim.maloney@usbank.com

June 29, 2011

Foundation Announces \$1 Million Investment in the Priorities of Urban Core Education Partnership

Community Learning Centers and Ascend Performance Institute Included

Cincinnati, Ohio, June 29, 2011 – The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation announces a \$1 Million investment in the priority strategies of The Strive Partnership, which is a coalition of education, philanthropic, business, and nonprofit leaders focused entirely on improving education in the urban core of Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport. The grants range from one to three years in length, and will support coordinated action designed to significantly impact student achievement and growth, cradle to career.

“I am pleased we are making this investment in what our local partners involved in The Strive Partnership, in addition to sound data and research, have deemed critical to driving student success in the urban cores of our region,” said Leslie Maloney, Senior Vice President and Education Program Manager of the Foundation. “We strongly believe in the work of the Partnership and its ability to align resources and action around what will significantly impact outcomes for our children, cradle to career.”

The Haile/U.S. Bank Foundation’s investment includes support for the following strategies:

- Community Learning Centers of Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS)—funding resource coordination for JP Parker school in Madisonville and Douglass Academy in Walnut Hills (funding will go directly to CPS);
- Ascend Performance Institute at the Mayerson Academy—funding three Covington Independent Schools and one Catholic Inner-City School Education Fund (CISE) school to participate in the first cohort and an additional six schools to participate in the second cohort (funding will go directly to Mayerson);
- *One to One* reading program—funding coordinated tutor recruitment in Northern Kentucky;
- Continuous Improvement Coaching—funding coaching support for education service provider collaborations aligned to key student outcomes;

Additional funding will support other Partnership activities such as coordinated policy advocacy, report card production, an evaluation of the Partnership, and a new Strive Fellow initiative, a one year program during which participants commit to become fully immersed in the work of the Partnership.

“There is tremendous value in collective impact, and the Haile/U.S. Bank Foundation is working hard to support the Partnership’s effort to better align local resources around what’s working to improve outcomes for kids,” said Greg Landsman, Executive Director of The Strive Partnership. “This investment will support the priorities of the Partnership—and much of the funding goes to partners, not to Strive.”

The Haile/U.S. Bank Foundation is also one of 16 funders that came together to support the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant that was awarded to The Strive Partnership and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati (fiscal agent) to support the needs of low-income children and youth from cradle to career. “The grant, which is \$2 million over two years, had to be matched dollar for dollar with new funds which, when combined with the federal dollars, created a funding pool that would be awarded to subgrantees through a competitive process,” said Maloney. “The SIF is a great example of aligning significant resources around what works and thereby generating greater success for our kids.”

“Our giving strategy has been and will continue to be to invest in areas in which we can have the greatest and most lasting impact,” Tim Maloney said, President and CEO of the Foundation. “Our investments in both the SIF and The Strive Partnership priorities acknowledge that alignment of resources and collaborations in funding bring tremendous leverage to affecting real change.”

About the Strive Partnership

In order to achieve better results for every child, every step of the way, from cradle to career, Greater Cincinnati leaders at all levels of the education, nonprofit, community, civic, and philanthropic sectors are working together along the educational continuum as part of The Strive Partnership to tackle some of our most pressing challenges, and to take advantage of some of our biggest opportunities. The Strive Partnership serves as a catalyst to drive better results in education, so that every child is **Prepared** for school, **Supported** inside and outside of school, **Succeeds** in school, **Enrolls** in some form of postsecondary education and **Graduates** and enters a career. Within its footprint (Cincinnati, Newport and Covington), the Strive Partnership rallies around seven priority outcomes: kindergarten readiness, 4th grade reading proficiency, 8th grade math proficiency, high school graduation rates and ACT scores, and postsecondary enrollment and completion.

About The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation

The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation is an independent family foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for residents in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region. The Foundation concentrates its efforts and resources in those areas about which the Hailes were most passionate: education, arts and culture, community development, and human services. The Foundation also recognizes the relationship the Hailes had with U.S. Bank through its U.S. Bank Legacy initiative. All of the Foundation’s work is intended to have the largest impact possible as the Foundation, in collaboration with the region’s stakeholders, helps lead the way to a strong and vibrant community.

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