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INVEST *in* Baltimore

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE TO PROVIDE SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR NEEDY STUDENTS

Anonymous donor's \$10,000 gift goes to BCPS school uniform fund

(Baltimore, MD, 05/26/09) Thanks to an anonymous member of The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle (BWGC) of the Baltimore Community Foundation, the Baltimore City Public Schools' uniform fund will have \$10,000 more to outfit needy children with required school uniforms this fall.

The BWGC's 300 plus members seek to become better-informed grant makers through education programs. For this year's topic, the Baltimore City public schools, members heard from CEO Andres Alonso and his top deputies, visited schools and talked with administrators, principals, teachers, parents, and students.

"During our year-long look at the city's public schools," said BWGC co-chair Beth Lebow, "we learned that a major reason kids give for not going to school is not having the right clothing. Each year at least 100 families are on the waiting list for financial assistance to purchase uniforms. So we believe this gift will have an immediate impact: at least 60 more students will be ready to attend school this fall."

"The gift was made possible by a very generous BWGC member who wishes to remain anonymous," said BWGC co-chair Pat Joseph. "And it is in addition to the BWGC's annual grants of more than \$300,000 to organizations working to improve the lives of economically

disadvantaged women and their children in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Our 2009 grants will be awarded in early June.”

“We want all our kids to be ready to come back to school and learn. We are very grateful that this gift will help make sure our eager children are ready to come to school with the proper uniform regardless of their economic circumstances,” said Michael Sarbanes, City Schools’ Director of Partnerships.

BALTIMORE WOMEN’S GIVING CIRCLE

Through collective giving and collaboration, The Baltimore Women’s Giving Circle, a fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation, seeks to improve life for disadvantaged women and their families in the greater Baltimore area. The Giving Circle encourages members to participate in philanthropy through education, grant making, and other community-based activities. Since its founding in 2001, BWGC has granted more than \$1.3 million to nonprofit organizations serving women and their families in the Baltimore area. More information about BWGC may be found at www.thebwgc.org.

BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Baltimore Women’s Giving Circle is one of more than 600 charitable funds that make up the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF), which distributed \$28 million in 2008 to hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the Baltimore region and beyond. BCF invites donors to *Invest in Baltimore* through its civic agenda, which combines economic development with poverty reduction by making strategic investments in the areas of human services, youth, education, transportation, neighborhoods, diversity, environment, arts and culture, and promoting Baltimore. More information about *Invest in Baltimore* as well as support for individual donors’ philanthropy and more can be found at www.bcf.org.

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