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Schaefer Legacy Will Be \$5 Million Endowment for Neighborhoods

Baltimore, Md. – As mayor of Baltimore, William Donald Schaefer waged war on the potholes and garbage-strewn streets of his beloved city. Also as mayor, he saw to it that an advisory-board-guided fund provided small grants for unmet neighborhood needs. Neighborhoods are what Governor Schaefer stood for throughout his public life, so it is fitting that neighborhoods are where Schaefer will turn to cement his legacy.

On Monday, March 24 Senator Barbara Mikulski, Mayor Sheila Dixon, leaders of the Baltimore Community Foundation, and many of Schaefer's life-long friends gathered at the Stadium Place Y to honor Schaefer and announce the formation of the William Donald Schaefer Civic Fund at BCF, with a goal to raise a \$5 million endowment on behalf of city and county neighborhoods. Seed money from left-over campaign funds and from that original mayoral neighborhood fund have launched the effort.

The William Donald Schaefer Civic Fund will be housed and administered at the Baltimore Community Foundation. It will complement BCF's highly regarded Neighborhood Grants Program, leveraging community advisory and staff oversight and tapping Schaefer's extensive knowledge of Baltimore neighborhoods and their needs. Schaefer served as honorary chair of the most recent round of grants from BCF's Neighborhood Grants Program, where \$118,500 was awarded to 24 neighborhood organizations.

"We all know how committed the Baltimore Community Foundation is and its dedication to investing in Baltimore. Throughout his career, Governor Schaefer has been a champion of Baltimore neighborhoods and helping those who are helping others," said Senator Barbara A. Mikulski. "Governor Schaefer doesn't just sign a check, he shows up to see the new coat of paint put on. I'm proud to celebrate my friend and colleague."

The priorities of the Schaefer Civic Fund will be:

- Increasing community involvement
- Nurturing resident leadership
- Improving communication among neighbors

“Strong and healthy neighborhoods are the backbone of a thriving city,” said Mayor Sheila Dixon. “Baltimore has always been a city of neighborhoods, and we have to nurture all neighborhoods so that the people of Baltimore benefit from those strong neighborhoods. The Baltimore Community Foundation’s Neighborhood Grants program has been an outstanding instrument for this effort. The Schaefer Fund will bolster and expand the benefits for all.”

Also speaking at the event, Jolyn Rademacher of Banner Neighborhoods, Inc. outlined her vision for what the Schaefer Fund will mean to neighborhood organizations like hers. “In Patterson Park and Southeast Baltimore, we know first hand how the fabric of the community can be strengthened with even a small amount of money at an important time for the neighborhood. The William Donald Schaefer Civic Fund will make a tremendous difference in the lives of so many neighborhoods by being there when funds –even in small amounts – are needed.”

Donations can be made to the Schaefer Fund by going to www.bcf.org and clicking on the Schaefer Fund link on the home page. To answer questions and find out more about the William Donald Schaefer Civic Fund, call 410-332-4171.

About the Baltimore Community Foundation

The Baltimore Community Foundation is the third largest grantmaker among Maryland’s charitable foundations, with distributions in 2007 of \$30 million to hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the Baltimore region and beyond. With assets of \$193 million, BCF comprises more than 500 different charitable funds.

BCF’s civic agenda combines economic development with poverty reduction through strategic investments in the areas of human services, youth, education, transportation, neighborhoods, diversity, environment, arts and culture, and promoting Baltimore.

BCF helps individuals, families and organizations carry out their charitable plans, with the common goal of improving the quality of life in the greater Baltimore region, today and for generations to come. To donors, BCF offers a complete toolkit for charitable giving, expert assistance in learning more about the causes they care about, and the opportunity to join others with similar interests to learn and give together. To the community at large, BCF offers a permanent, growing source of grant monies, as well as a common meeting ground and leadership on important issues in our region.

In addition, BCF provides grantmaking oversight for two independent foundations, the William G. Baker Jr. Memorial Fund and the Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation.

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