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**URBAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL COMPLETES \$16 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

*Initiative Helped Fund New School Building, Serve Children of Cleveland's Near West Side*

CLEVELAND – March 15, 2007 – After five years of fundraising and countless hours of tireless work, Urban Community School (UCS) has officially completed its \$16 million capital campaign. The campaign, which marked the first capital initiative in the school's 39-year history, paved the way for an expansive new building on Cleveland's Near West Side and saw its final donations at the hands of school faculty and staff.

"Every contribution helped open new windows of opportunity for the children of the Near West Side," said Sister Maureen Doyle, school director. "UCS sees more than 90 percent of our students graduate from high school and more than 60 percent attend college. The completion of this campaign, along with our new facility, allows us to build on that success and ensures we will continue to empower Cleveland's youth and see them prosper."

Of the campaign contributions, \$12 million was used for the design and construction of UCS' 76,000-square-foot building on West 48<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue. That building opened to students in September 2005. The remaining \$4 million was placed into the school's operating and endowment funds to provide additional student scholarships as a result of increased enrollment.

UCS trustees and the school's campaign committee contributed more than 60%, or about \$9.6 million, to the initiative. The remaining donations came at the hands of community supporters, local foundations and area businesses, who contributed monetary donations as well as building supplies.

UCS has welcomed students from a diverse group of ethnic and Christian-based religious backgrounds for nearly four decades and has been recognized as a model of urban education. The school currently educates 440 youngsters, most of whom survive on family incomes below the federal poverty level, with the space to expand and accommodate as many as 600 in the future.

**ABOUT UCS**

Urban Community School (UCS) is an independent, non-graded preK-8 school providing high-quality education to the children of Cleveland's Near West Side. The school offers an alternative to traditional education suited to meet the needs of children living in an unstable, volatile and often violent community.

The school has an annual budget of \$2.5 million dollars and is supported, under the direction of a board of trustees, through contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, churches and other generous organizations.

Visit UCS online at [www.urbancommunityschool.org](http://www.urbancommunityschool.org).

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