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**THE WONDER OF LEARNING: THE HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN,
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBIT OPENS AT THE DAVID L. LAWRENCE
CONVENTION CENTER ON FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2015**

Ribbon cutting event Thursday, July 16 will officially open the exhibit.

*The Wonder of Learning exhibit is open July 17 – November 15, 2015 and is free and open to the public.
The exhibit is located in the West Lobby, Hall E.*

PITTSBURGH, PA – July 13, 2015 The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children exhibit opens to the public on Friday, July 17th showcasing the Reggio Emilia approach for early childhood education.

The 7,000 square-foot exhibition displays the work of the children and teachers in the infant-toddler centers and preschools of Reggio Emilia, Italy. The work depicts their learning process and the strong image of the child, a central element of this educational philosophy. Through experiencing the exhibition, visitors will have a greater understanding of children's thinking and will better understand the Reggio Emilia approach to education, using collaboration and relationship-based learning.

The Reggio Emilia approach refers to the philosophy of early childhood education that originated in Reggio Emilia, Italy following the destruction of World War II. This unique approach to education is based on a set of guiding principles and allowing the child to learn, experience, and connect by following their interests. The Hundred Languages of Children reflects the idea that children can express themselves – their thoughts, ideas and feelings - in a hundred different ways.

The exhibit is free of charge and open to the public Friday, July 17th through Sunday, November 15th, 2015. This exhibit will mark the first time the David L. Lawrence Convention Center has hosted an exhibit of this duration. The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children exhibit is a collaboration between the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC).

The exhibit has traveled to thirty-one countries, including forty cities in the United States and has been seen by hundreds of thousands of visitors since 1981.

"Bringing the exhibit to Pittsburgh has been a huge collaborative undertaking, and is years in the making. We want this exhibit to be a backdrop for big conversations about high-quality early education for all children. Our goal is that this exhibit will resonate not only with residents of the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County but with the entire tri-state area. We hope educators, parents and the community will be inspired by what is possible and what can happen during these early learning years." said Carolyn Linder, early childhood education manager with Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh.

The multimedia exhibit is divided into stations that are interconnected, but independent. Visitors can go at their own pace and start at any section in the exhibit based on their personal interests. Each section is composed of a variety of media, and may include three-dimensional objects, videos, booklets, audio-recordings and children's work. The Pittsburgh exhibit also includes the world premiere of a new video.

Each host city may opt to create an Atelier or Studio space. Pittsburgh chose the Atelier of Light; this has been created by a committee of local early childhood educators with the help of Clear Story Lighting Design, who

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together, conceived, designed and executed the interactive exhibit for children ages 5-8. The Atelier offers visitors an interactive experience with light, shadow, transparency and reflection. The Atelier was designed to work with the exhibit and to offer a professional development and learning experience for adults. "Lakeshore Learning Materials and the Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse have played an integral role in the Atelier of Light. We are excited to see it come to life and use the studio as an opportunity for professional development for educators and an opportunity for parents and the community to get a real life understanding of the Reggio Emilia approach. Observing the children playing and learning in the studio, you can see the strength of this approach," said Sue Polojac, director of programming at PAEYC.

"The Wonders of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children exhibit is a true asset to the region. We're proud to host efforts such as these which continue to invest in the future of our children," said County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. "We welcome educators and parents from across the country and hope they enjoy all of the incredible resources our region has to offer."

The Wonder of Learning exhibit is made possible by the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) and Reggio Children. The Pittsburgh visit is sponsored by The Heinz Endowments, The Beacon Foundation, The David S. and Karen A. Shapira Foundation, and The Pittsburgh Foundation.

An invitation-only Ribbon Cutting Event in celebration of the grand opening of the exhibit will take place on Thursday, July 16, 2015, from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Fitzgerald will be joining other elected officials along with local leaders in education and children in the Atelier of Light. The media are invited to attend.

The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children
David L. Lawrence Convention Center | West Lobby, Hall E
Friday, July 17, 2015 - Sunday, November 15, 2015
Hours: Wednesday – Friday, 1pm – 7pm | Saturday & Sunday – 11am-3pm
For more information: www.pittsburghwol.org

About Reggio Emilia Pittsburgh Initiative

The Reggio Emilia Pittsburgh Initiative is a new partnership dedicated to bringing The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children exhibition to Pittsburgh for the first time. This new initiative stands as a testament to the serious and long-standing commitment that Pittsburgh and the region has to a continued dialogue with the Reggio Emilia schools and principles.

About Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh

The vision of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh is to have a thriving, vibrant, and engaged Jewish Community. In order to accomplish this we raise and allocate funds and build community locally, in Israel, and around the world. Pittsburgh Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative, JECEI, is a comprehensive systemic multi-year change initiative that includes three core components: quality early childhood education, engaging families in Jewish living and learning, and shared leadership. Pittsburgh JECEI transforms the educational approach and practices of existing Jewish early childhood centers into higher quality educational centers with active family participation. Pittsburgh JECEI draws its power from the unique blend of two inspiring directions: Jewish ideas and values and the acclaimed Reggio Emilia Approach.

About PAEYC

The Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC) works to support high-quality care and education for young children from birth until age nine across 10 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania. PAEYC provides professional development, community resources and advocacy for the needs and rights of children, their families and the individuals who work with them.

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