



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Bill Shamblin
Newport Independent Schools
(859) 292-3047

*United Way of Greater Cincinnati Gift of \$15,000 Keeps
Award Winning Early Childhood Program on Track*

“This investment clearly aligns with United Way’s number one priority of preparing children for kindergarten and is in direct alignment with the work of Success By 6 in Northern Kentucky. It’s a perfect fit” says Amy Neal, Director of Success By 6 in Northern Kentucky

Newport, KY, March 12, 2009: The Newport Independent School District (NIS) today announced that is has received a \$15,000 funding gift from the United Way of Greater Cincinnati (UWGC) The objective of the UWGC gift is to ensure the award winning Newport Early Childhood Collaborative is able to continue the Bright Futures program. The Bright Futures is a home visitation program for children birth to three who do not qualify for other home visitation programs such as Every Child Succeeds.

“This generous gift from the United Way of Greater Cincinnati, leveraged with a similar grant from The Greater Cincinnati Foundation is providing our district with the financial resources necessary to ensure our children are prepared, day 1, for kindergarten and the early demands of our public schools”, said NIS Superintendent Michael Brandt.

“This investment clearly aligns with United Way’s number one priority of preparing children for kindergarten and is in direct alignment with the work of Success By 6 in Northern Kentucky. It’s a perfect fit” says Amy Neal, Director of Success By 6 in Northern Kentucky.

The Early Childhood Home Visitation program is an integral piece of the award winning Newport Independent Schools Early Childhood Collaborative, (NISECC) a collaboration of non-profit agencies and educational institutions focused on the goal of preparing at-risk children for school. The NISECC provides educational services to at-risk children age birth through five.

The District’s Home Visitation Program provides ongoing in-home instruction and monitoring to support our parents in their efforts to prepare their child through everyday exercises. (Research indicates that the majority of a child’s brain development occurs during the period birth through age 3.) A metrics based program, this program has shown statistically to improve a child’s intellectual, physical and social development.

-more-

About the Newport Independent School District

The Newport Independent District is a small urban public school district of approximately 1,900 students, serving the residents of Newport, Kentucky. The district is currently implementing an aggressive strategic plan for improvement, with the goal of becoming the finest small urban school system in the country. The district's five schools are A.D. Owens Elementary, Fourth Street Elementary, Mildred Dean Elementary, Newport Middle School and Newport High School.

Members of the Newport Independent School Board include: Board Chair: Mr. Robert Usleaman, Vice Chair: Dr. Julie Smith-Morrow, Board Members: Ms. Andrea Janovic, Mr. Chris Parsons and Ms. Janean Parsons.

About The United Way of Greater Cincinnati

United Way of Greater Cincinnati works every day to advance the common good by focusing on education, income and health. In Greater Cincinnati, United Way's Agenda for Community Impact guides our work by ensuring children, youth and adults succeed in school and life, helping families achieve financial stability and improving people's health and enhancing their independence.

Living United means being part of making these long-lasting changes a reality in our community.

###