



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Phalen Leadership Academies receives \$465,000 from The Glick Fund to help transform IPS School #103

Indianapolis, INDIANA – The Phalen Leadership Academies (PLA) has received a major award from The Glick Fund, a fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF), to help transform the quality of education for children who attend Francis Scott Key Elementary School (Indianapolis Public Schools School #103).

The \$465,000 investment will provide critical services for the scholars and families attending the school located in Indianapolis' Far Eastside neighborhood, now known as "PLA@103." The award enabled PLA to recruit and hire an entirely new team of educators to serve the scholars who attend School #103. The Glick Fund's gift is also supporting intensive professional development for the school's teachers, a core component of PLA's approach to transforming School #103. In order to create a warm and inviting learning environment for children, Glick funded key facilities improvements, including the installation of new carpeting and furniture. In addition, the donation has allowed PLA to hire Parent Advocates in order to provide extensive support for families.

"We are very pleased to be part of the effort to improve the quality of life in the Far Eastside of Indianapolis and firmly believe that a high quality school is a critical cornerstone to that effort," said Marianne Glick, director at the Eugene & Marilyn Glick Family Foundation and The Glick Fund. "We are proud to partner with Indianapolis Public Schools and Phalen Leadership Academies to transform the learning environment at School #103 and ensure that our children will receive the high quality education they deserve."

"We are incredibly grateful for this tremendous gift from the Glick family, who continue to be leaders in helping to make the Far Eastside, Indianapolis, and Central Indiana great places to live," said PLA Founder and CEO Earl Martin Phalen. "Last year, only 25% of the children attending School #103 passed I-READ, the test evaluating reading proficiency for 3rd graders. Thanks to the Glicks' generosity, we are now positioned to provide children on the Far Eastside with the high quality education that they deserve."

The Glick Fund's donation comes as part of several recent city-wide efforts to enhance the quality of life for residents of Indianapolis' Far Eastside.

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In 2014, a state law gave IPS the unprecedented authority to replace chronically under-performing or underused schools like School #103 with high-quality, autonomous public schools within the school district (named “Innovation Network Schools”). In the 2014-2015 school year, only 15% of students at School #103 passed both the English Language Arts and Math components of the ISTEP+ state standardized exam, according to the Indiana Department of Education.

PLA, a nonprofit educational organization, was selected to help transform the school into the state’s first Innovation Network School during the 2014 “Innovation Schools Fellowship,” a partnership between IPS, The Mind Trust, and the City of Indianapolis. As an Innovation Network School, some of PLA@103’s other key features will include extended learning time; evidence-based curricula; Teacher’s Assistants; and a “blended learning” model which engages children in a combination of teacher-led, small-group, and computer-based instruction to rapidly raise achievement.

The new school will also form a core pillar of the recently-formed “Far Eastside Success Initiative,” which was proposed by IPS and supported by several local foundations, including The Glick Fund. The Initiative plans to create a comprehensive pipeline of high-quality education and social services from birth through college in the area surrounding School #103.

PLA@103 will open the new school for the 2015-2016 year on August 3rd.

About The Glick Fund

Established in 1998 by Indianapolis civic and business leaders Eugene and Marilyn Glick, The Glick Fund is a donor-advised fund of CICF. The Glick Fund also strives to align with CICF’s three broader community leadership initiatives of: family success, inspiring places and college readiness & success – initiatives aimed at making central Indiana one of the best places in the nation to live, work and raise a family. To date, The Glick Fund has awarded more than \$55 million in grants to not-for-profit organizations.

About the Phalen Leadership Academies

PLA is a nonprofit network of public charter schools that was approved in 2012 to ultimately serve over 10,000 students (called “scholars”) annually in grades K-8 across Indiana. In 2014-2015, 100% of PLA’s third-grade scholars passed the state IREAD-3 examination, demonstrating proficiency on the standardized reading exam. For more information about PLA, visit www.phalenacademies.org or call Founder and CEO Earl Martin Phalen at 617-818-1959.

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