

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Emily Mackell / 215-470-5216
emackell@dunleavyassociates.com

Steppingstone Scholars' Event Honoring Lincoln Financial Group and President and CEO Dennis Glass a Huge Success; Funds Raised to Support Educational Opportunity

Philadelphia, PA – May 3, 2010 – The Step into Spring gala was held on April 30, 2010 at the Please Touch Museum in Fairmount Park. The event raised more than \$400,000 for Steppingstone Scholars, Inc., a Philadelphia based non-profit organization that develops and implements programs that prepare underserved schoolchildren for educational opportunities that lead to college.

More than 340 guests gathered to salute the work of the program's courageous and devoted students and to honor one of Steppingstone Scholars' most committed supporters, Lincoln Financial Group and its President and Chief Executive Officer Dennis Glass.

"I believe that education is the common thread that enables and empowers people to achieve their own American Dreams, and that is why Lincoln Financial Group is very proud to be a part of the tremendous work that Steppingstone Scholars does to help students succeed and to prepare them for their college careers," said Dennis Glass.

The Step into Spring event was lead in part by co-chairs Jaimie and David Field of Entercom Communications Corporation who serve as Director of Sustainability and as Chief Executive Officer and Director, respectively.

"We are so grateful for the companies and individuals, like our honoree, who work to support organizations that are truly making a difference, like Steppingstone Scholars," said Jaimie Field. "It is these very organizations that help our city remain competitive on a national scale."

Wanda Paul, Steppingstone Scholars board member, and Patrick Paul joined the Fields as co-chairs of the event. Wanda Paul is the Senior Vice President at the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau. After 25 years as Regional Vice President with Aramark, Patrick Paul now serves as President and Owner of Patrick Paul Enterprises LLC, consulting in the food services industry.

"I am honored to have helped lead this event, which is a critical night for everyone involved with the organization" said Wanda Paul. "The spring gala creates an opportunity to share in the company of those who are dedicated to Steppingstone Scholars' mission and show our appreciation for their support."

Step into Spring featured cocktails on the carousel, a silent and live auction, dinner, dancing and entertainment by Steppingstone Scholars alum Tim Spady, as well as music from The Edge. The live auction included the A Seat at the Table Dining Series, an exclusive opportunity for donors to dine with leaders from various fields and partner with Steppingstone Scholars to give children the opportunity that education affords - to give them a seat at the table. Dining series participants are Kelly Corrigan, author; Jim Ellis, educator, swim coach and subject of the feature film *Pride*; Gerry Lenfest, philanthropist; Mayor Michael Nutter; and Stacey Snider, CEO and Co-Chair of DreamWorks Studios.

The event raised in excess of \$150,000 more than in previous years. The organization credits this success to the commitment of supporters like Lincoln Financial Group, as well as the leadership of event co-chairs Jaimie and David Field and Wanda and Patrick Paul and to the organization's board of directors.

- MORE -



For more information about Steppingstone Scholars or about the Step into Spring gala, please visit www.steppingstonescholars.org or call Kendra Kirk, Director of Development at 215-508-5150.

About Steppingstone Scholars, Inc.

Steppingstone Scholars, Inc. is dedicated to helping educationally underserved students in the Greater Philadelphia Region achieve academic success. Students with the potential and a community of support are prepared for admission to and success at the best public, non-public and independent college preparatory schools through a program of academics, mentoring and support. Steppingstone Scholars works with partner schools to create opportunities that lead to college.

###