



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Neighborhood Academy Opens Matt's Maker Space in partnership with Matt's Maker Space and the PPG Foundation.

WHAT: The Neighborhood Academy is unveiling a new Matt's Maker Space and celebrating with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The school is located in the Stanton Heights neighborhood in the City of Pittsburgh. The Neighborhood Academy, grades 6-12, is a private, independent, college-preparatory school that serves youth regardless of income.

WHY: The Neighborhood Academy is proud to partner with Matt's Maker Space and the PPG Foundation to integrate STEAM activities into its curriculum which will provide opportunities for students to create, collaborate and dream in a judgement-free zone as part of their education.

WHO:

Dr. Anthony P. Williams, Head of School
Noelle Conover, co-founder and Executive Director, Matt's Maker Space, Inc.
Malesia Dunn, Executive Director, PPG Foundation
Anne Fullenkamp, Senior Director of Creative Experiences, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. Monday, September 26, 2022

WHERE: The Neighborhood Academy, 709 North Aiken Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

To attend this event, please contact Jonathan Winkler, at 412.203.0158.

Matt's Maker Space was started by the Conover family in memory of their son, Matt, who loved technology, creating and tinkering. He passed away from cancer at the age of 12. Matt's Maker Space is a place where kids can explore science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) through experiential and hands-on learning. This 501(C)(3) nonprofit provides opportunities for kids to create and collaborate in a safe and judgment-free environment.



There are now 33 Matt's Maker Spaces in Western Pennsylvania from pre-K to grade 12, libraries, community centers, and hospitals. Matt's Maker Space has donated over \$1 million in spaces, teacher training, and programming as well as scholarships for STEAM activities.

In partnership with Matt's Maker Space, the PPG Foundation is instrumental in creating this new space at The Neighborhood Academy, to integrate STEAM activities into our curriculum. To build the next generation of diverse and innovative STEM leaders, the PPG Foundation supports The Neighborhood Academy in providing engaging, hands-on activities that spark an early interest in exploration and discovery and encourage curiosity in the possibilities of STEM studies.

About the Neighborhood Academy:

Founded by Ms. Josephine B. Moore, and Reverend Thomas E. Johnson, Jr., The Neighborhood Academy began as an innovative summer school program in 1992 for at-risk youth in Larimar. The school is now in its 22nd academic year.

Designed to meet the needs of families who demonstrate financial need, its mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty by empowering youth and preparing them for college and citizenship. The school is dedicated to developing the minds, bodies, and spirits of students so they become fully productive members of society. To date, 100% of TNA graduates have been accepted to four-year colleges/universities, and alumni boast a 75% five-year college graduation rate, with 90% returning to the Pittsburgh workforce.

For more information about **The Neighborhood Academy**, please call Carolyn Sanford at 412.362.2021 or visit www.theneighborhoodacademy.org

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