DETROIT COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL DEDICATES MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

BEVERLY HILLS, MI, January 9, 2009 – Detroit Country Day School is pleased to announce the opening and dedication of its new middle school gymnasium. On Monday January 5, 2009 Country Day students, board members, faculty, staff, families and friends joined together to dedicate the Cooper Gymnasium to Mrs. Susan E. Cooper.

Mrs. Cooper’s roots in Country Day have grown very deep. Her father, Robert H. Flint, graduated from DCDS in 1930 and her uncle Edgar B. Flint in 1928. Her daughter, son and grandchildren also attend(ed) the school. During the 1990-1991 capital campaign, Cooper’s leadership, generosity and sheer determination enabled Country Day to build its current Middle School building. Back then she was insistent that the board of trustees also build a gym on the Middle School campus, but due to hard economic times, it was not possible to raise enough money to do so. Today, 19 years later, as a part of the school’s current capital campaign “The Centennial Campaign-Preparing for a New Century of Achievement,” Cooper challenged the school with a leadership gift to build the state-of-the-art gym that Country Day just officially opened.

When deciding what to name the new gymnasium, Country Day Headmaster Glen P. Shilling really wanted to name the facility in Cooper’s honor, although many of those who were close to her challenged that she, being such a humble individual, would never agree.

“I asked Mrs. Cooper if she would be willing to allow Detroit Country Day School to name this gymnasium in her honor so that our students and families would grow up in the school knowing that women are leaders and philanthropists for worthy causes and organizations,” said Shilling at the dedication ceremony. “She graciously consented because I literally begged her. So, on behalf of the entire Country Day School community including our trustees, faculty, staff, administration, alumni and especially our students, Mrs. Cooper, I thank you for your leadership and your support of our school. From this day forward, this beautiful gymnasium is named the Cooper Gymnasium in your honor.”

Cooper also addressed the audience during the dedication ceremony, expressing her excitement in seeing a long-time dream of hers coming to fruition.

“It is such a thrill to stand before you and give you this gym. The Middle School is a beautiful facility academically and now it recognizes the importance of athletics and a sound mind in a sound body which is what the school stands for,” said Cooper. “Many middlers before you never knew the luxury of such a facility. It’s simply marvelous, so enjoy it, preserve it and appreciate it. It is a wonderful addition to Country Day.”

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Titled “The Centennial Campaign-Preparing for a New Century of Achievement,” Detroit Country Day’s current capital campaign will help to give the school a rare chance to secure its future and remain competitive with other schools. An anonymous benefactor has agreed to a dollar-for-dollar match of contributions to the Centennial Campaign’s endowment or facilities objectives. A second anonymous benefactor has offered a $5 million challenge and this match is designated to secure construction of the school’s much-needed new athletic center. There is also the traditional annual giving program which will designate funds to the other campaign objectives for an overall Centennial Campaign goal of $60 million.

The campaign objectives include Country Day’s Village Campus renovation and addition, (which is already complete), general facilities and equipment needs, indoor athletic facilities, (the Hillview Campus gym, a field house, fitness center and studio and renovated athletic space) and outdoor athletic facilities (Hillview Campus turf field, baseball field and track).

Another one of the campaign objectives is to increase the school’s endowment to a benchmark minimum of $40 million. Endowment is important to Country Day because it generates income for the school year and the income paid out of these endowment funds is utilized to support current programs, new initiatives, on-going operations and need based financial aid.

“This truly is a transformational time in Detroit Country Day School’s history,” said Shilling. “A campaign of this magnitude will help to secure the future of Country Day as an independent school. We are extremely excited about this campaign and I am confident that with the support of our families, friends and alumni, we can reach our goals,” he added.

Detroit Country Day School is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory school offering a liberal arts pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education. Founded in 1914, the school provides a foundation for lifelong learning within an environment of educational excellence and cultural diversity. Detroit Country Day (www.dcds.edu) serves more than 1,600 students on its four Birmingham/Beverly Hills-area campuses.

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