

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Press Release:

### **Cleveland Council on World Affairs Becomes Beneficiary of Trust Valued at \$2.9 million**

Cleveland Council on World Affairs recently learned that it is the beneficiary of a trust established by Brooks Emeny which has a present value of approximately \$2.9 Million. Brooks Emeny, (29 July 1901-12 July 1980), was the President of the Council from 1935 through 1948, and kept the Council in his memory by structuring his estate plan to provide continued support of the Council and its mission of providing an understanding of international affairs. Mr. Emeny's contribution ensures the longevity and sustainability of the Council to maintain its leadership in Northeast Ohio for programs on international issues and American foreign policy, including looking at their related impact on this region. In 1935, Mr. Emeny arrived in Cleveland to assume the unpaid position of Director of the local Foreign Affairs Council, which became the Cleveland Council on World Affairs. During his tenure, he transformed the organization into a leading forum on international affairs.

Today, the Cleveland Council on World Affairs is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization with a primary mission to engage the community of Northeast Ohio to achieve greater understanding of international relations and global issues. Through its program lectures, discussion groups, educational series, international visitor program, and Model United Nations, the Council has become one of the region's leading world affairs forums.

The Chairman of the Board of the Council, Stephen J. Petras, Jr., a partner at the law firm of Baker & Hostetler LLP, stated that "this gift will ensure that we continue to provide meaningful international programs to Cleveland and the entire Northeast Ohio region. Cleveland and Northeast Ohio constitute an important International business center and our businesses and individuals need to understand the impact of global issues on their lives and businesses. We are honored to receive this gift and we embrace the responsibility to carry forward with this mission that Mr. Emeny strongly believed in." Mr. Petras also added that this support of the Council particularly thrills him because Newton D. Baker, the founder of Baker & Hostetler, former Mayor of Cleveland and the Secretary of War during World War I, had been the person who originally encouraged Mr. Emeny to come to Cleveland to lead the Council.

The gift is structured to encourage continued community support of the Council through membership, donations, and sponsorships because distributions of funds from the trust to the Council will be limited, on a yearly basis, to a percent of the total Council funding received from these sources. Michael Bellardine, Senior Vice President and Director of Global Trade and International Payment Services at KeyBank, Treasurer of the Council, explained that "this gift is extremely important in maintaining the Council's ability to continue with its important International programs while at the same time encouraging community support of our mission. This is especially important in the current economic environment as both companies and individuals need assurance that the causes they donate to and support are sustainable."

For more information regarding the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, please refer to WWW. CCWA.org or contact the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, 812 Huron Road, Suite 620, Cleveland, Ohio, 44115, Attn: Richard A. Crepage, Ed.D., Administrative Director, 216 255 9007, rcrepage@ccwa.org.