NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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20 Years and Still Counting

How many leaders does it take to support a community? Leadership Worthington, Worthington's community-based leadership program, reached a milestone this year, celebrating 20 years and 370 graduates!

To celebrate the milestone, City officials and local leaders joined Leadership Worthington's founding members, alumni and students on February 20, at a lively event held in the Worthington Square Mall.

"We are celebrating a partnership of leadership in Worthington", explained Joan Bird, executive director of Leadership Worthington. "The City, business leaders, local organizations and schools all contribute to the wealth of programming, service and volunteerism given back to the community through Leadership Worthington. We are proud," she continues, "to be a part of this leadership effort."

Local businesses and individuals contributed to the festivities by providing the setting, food, drinks, prizes and entertainment. "Many thanks go out to all of those who pulled together for this event," added Bird. "We shared our celebration marking 20 years of developing leaders and looking forward to many more."

Donations were provided by: Worthington Square Mall, Chic Bags and Shells, Worthington Jewlers-Joe Davis, Franklin Covey Store, Ann Taylor, Monkworks, Sugarbush, Pendleton, Identity by Skin Perfect, COSI Restaurant, Jimmy Johns, Cam Taylor Relators, Natalie Moore and Magda VanFossen, Krogers-Worthington Square, Crowne Plaza-Columbus North, Doubletree Hotel-Crosswoods, China Way, Amano's Pizza and Metro Cuisine, Joan Bird, and Leadership Worthington. Music was provided by Melissa Robol and her piano students, Sam Fretz, Jasmin Chattergoon, and Michael Frankland.

Leadership Worthington is the area's community-based leadership program for adults and youth. Partnering with the City, business leaders, community organizations and schools, Leadership Worthington enhances the understanding of leadership qualities and issues facing the Worthington community as it develops individual and group leadership potential. Its Board of Directors includes alumni and other community leaders.

Leadership Worthington's nine-month adult program engages students in innovative strategies while they develop community service projects.

Projects designed by students in the Leadership Programs give life to community events which are mainstays in the community. Some of these events include the Spelling Bee, Service Day, 4th of July Family Picnic, Leadership Challenge, and Fall Fido Fest. Leadership Worthington is a non-profit 501 (3) (c) organization.

Applications are ready now for the next round of classes: the adult leadership and the high school classes start in September, while 8th grade programs commence in June and August. Interested persons can visit the website at www.leadershipworthington.org and call the offices at 614-883-3057.