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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PITTSBURGH 250 FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS EXTENDED THROUGH NOVEMBER 21  
Enjoy the Lights and Bring a Little Hope to Those in Need

**PITTSBURGH, PA (November 18, 2008)** -- The Pittsburgh 250 Festival of Lights announces that two of its locations have been extended through Friday evening, November 21, to assist with the “*Pittsburgh 250: Imagine Ending Hunger*” food drive. Two sites – the Onmi William Penn Hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh and the Cathedral of Learning in Oakland -- will stay lighted through midnight on November 21<sup>st</sup> to serve as collection sites for non-perishable food items to help those in need during this holiday season.

“Given its popularity, we wanted to give people one last chance to see the Pittsburgh 250 Festival of Lights during the Light Up Night festivities and also issue a call-to-action for Allegheny County residents to do what they do best – help neighbors in need,” said Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato. “By working together, we can make a difference and help to put food on the table of those who are struggling to make ends meet this holiday season.”

People who plan to come see the projections on Friday evening, November 21, are asked to be generous to those less fortunate and bring to either the William Penn Hotel or the Cathedral of Learning non-perishable food items (such as peanut butter, jelly, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned soup and hot or cold dry cereal). Donations will be received at these sites starting at 5:00 pm on Friday and all items collected will be distributed through the East End Cooperative Ministry and Catholic Charities – both of which are witnessing a significant increase in demand for their services.

Extending the Pittsburgh 250 Festival of Lights and its November 21 food collection sites is made possible through the generous support of Consol Energy, CNX Gas, University of Pittsburgh, VisitPittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Steelers, The Greater Pittsburgh Hotel Association, Allegheny County, and the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. The Pittsburgh 250 Festival of Lights is powered by Duquesne Light and made possible with generous support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, The Grable Foundation and the Audrey Hillman Fisher Foundation. For more information, visit [www.PittsburghCelebrates.org](http://www.PittsburghCelebrates.org).

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**PITTSBURGH FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS--** The largest light festival of its kind in the United States, the *Pittsburgh 250 Festival of Lights* is a “mecca” event strategically timed to coincide with the height of visual and performance arts schedules, to get local residents and tourists alike to experience the region’s tremendous array of arts, events and activities that drive economic development, increase travel and tourism and change the way Pittsburghers see their City. For more information: [www.pittsburghcelebrates.org](http://www.pittsburghcelebrates.org)

**PITTSBURGH 250--** Pittsburgh 250 celebrates the 250th anniversary of the naming of the region in 1758. With the support of the region’s business, government and civic leaders, Pittsburgh 250’s goals are: Improve awareness of southwestern Pennsylvania as a global leader; support projects that connect the region’s past to its future; and improve the region’s competitiveness for future generations. For more information: [www.imaginepittsburgh.com](http://www.imaginepittsburgh.com)