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Annual Spirit of St. Martin de Porres Gala Honors Walgreen Co.

Waukegan, Illinois, November 10, 2009 — On November 7, 2009, St. Martin de Porres High School (SMdP), a member of the Cristo Rey Network of Schools, held its annual St. Martin de Porres Gala at Knollwood Club in Lake Forest, raising goal-breaking funds for the student tuition assistance program. Chairing the Gala was SMdP Board of Trustees member Denise Curley of Lake Forest.

At this year's event the annual President's Award was given to Walgreens, which is headquartered in Deerfield, Illinois. The President's Award honors corporations that have consistently supported the mission of St. Martin de Porres High School by offering corporate internships to students that help bridge the gap between school and work, provide financial support, and broaden students' career horizons through exposure to professional work environments.

"St. Martin de Porres High School is pleased to honor Walgreens for their generosity and leadership as a Founding Business Partner of the Hire4Ed program of SMdP," said George Rattin, President. "Walgreens and its employees provide our students the coaching and confidence that they can succeed in the professional workplace and find a rewarding and fulfilling future there after college."

Walgreens' support of education extends beyond financial support to include the active engagement of Walgreens employees in championing the mission of organizations devoted to strengthening and supporting this country's children, particularly those most in need. For the past five years, employees of Walgreens have taught the students of St. Martin de Porres the keys to success in the professional workplace through the school's Hire4Ed program. Student growth is nurtured through the excellent coaching of caring and committed professionals in Walgreens' merchandising, advertising, finance, legal and logistics departments. In the spring of 2009 the Hire4Ed program awarded Carolynn Leiding, a Divisional Coordinator of Merchandising and Strategic Planning and Analysis at Walgreens, the 2009 Educator of the Year Award for her outstanding work with St. Martin de Porres High School students.

"As one of St. Martin de Porres' original business partners for this internship program, we're so proud to help and see students grow in the workplace," said Walgreens divisional vice president Rick Hans who accepted the award on Walgreens behalf. "Not only do the students walk away with a better sense of responsibility, discipline and drive, we, too also gain a sense of enthusiasm from being a part of the mentoring process."

Founded in 1901 by Charles R. Walgreen, a pharmacist, business owner and entrepreneur, Walgreens began as a single pharmacy on Chicago's South side. Today, just a little more than a century after that first pharmacy opened, Walgreens operates over 7,045 drugstores in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

In addition to its receipt of the President's Award, Walgreens was recognized at the Gala event as one of the school's founding business partners, along with twelve other Lake County businesses.

About St. Martin de Porres High School

A member of the national Cristo Rey Network, St Martin de Porres High School (SMdP) is a Catholic, coed, college preparatory school serving students primarily from Waukegan and North Chicago. The school is committed to academic excellence made affordable for young people with limited educational options through each student's participation in the Hire4Ed (Corporate Internship) Program. SMdP opened in the Fall of 2004 with just under 100 students and 13 business partners. Today SMdP serves more than 230 students and enjoys partnerships with more than 60 business partners. A member of the Archdiocese of Chicago, SMdP became the first Catholic high school in Lake County to open in more than 40 years.

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