

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:**

Raissa Allaire: (312) 630-0247

**Center for Economic Progress and Chicago State and Civic Leaders Celebrate 20 Years of Helping Families Achieve Financial Security**

*20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event – Co-chaired by Mayor Richard M. Daley and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn – to be Held in Grant Park on September 25*

CHICAGO, September 1, 2010 – The Center for Economic Progress (CEP), an organization dedicated to helping hard-working, low-income families move from financial uncertainty to financial security, along with Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, will honor Chicago leaders who have helped CEP prosper and serve Illinois communities since its inception 20 years ago.

The event, called *Progress in Bloom*, will be held on Saturday, September 25, at the Tiffany Celebration Garden in Chicago's Grant Park. NBC5 reporter Natalie Martinez will serve as the master of ceremonies, and proceeds will go to support CEP, which provides free tax preparation and other financial services, and advocates on a local and national level for a financial system that works for all.

"We are thrilled to be celebrating CEP's first 20 years of making economic progress a reality for thousands of families across Illinois and the country," said David Marzahl, president at CEP. "With the help of many generous supporters, in the past 20 years, we have served over 270,000 families, returning nearly \$400 million in refunds and benefits—more than any other organization of our kind."

The following individuals are serving as chairs and co-chairs for the event's honorary committee:

- **The Honorable Richard M. Daley**, Mayor, City of Chicago
- **The Honorable Pat Quinn**, Governor, State of Illinois
- **Chris Hodges**, Senior Managing Director, Financial Dynamics (FD)
- **Jennifer Steans**, President, Financial Investments Corporation

A complete list of honorary committee members can be found at [www.economicprogress.org/progressinbloom](http://www.economicprogress.org/progressinbloom).

*Progress in Bloom* will also feature an evening of music and mingling, while guests enjoy fine food and drinks served by strolling waiters. Attendees will also be invited to participate in a unique silent auction where local artists decorate terra cotta pots which are then filled with a variety of goodies.

The event is sponsored by Citi Foundation, Bank of America, FD, Fig Media, State Farm Insurance, Northern Trust, Chase, Keurig, the PrivateBank, Seyfarth Shaw, MyServiceVine and Fifth Third Bank. Tickets are \$150 per person. Individuals employed by a non-profit organization can purchase a discounted ticket for \$100. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.economicprogress.org/progressinbloom](http://www.economicprogress.org/progressinbloom) or by calling (312) 630-0285.

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**Note to Editor:**

Honorary event committee members are available to speak with the press. To reach an honorary committee member, contact Raissa Allaire at (312) 630-0247.