

NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, October 19, 2009 Contact: Jack P. Marschall (440) 885-8181 or (216) 346-9935 (cell)

PARMA PARTNERS WITH "KIDS COATS" PROJECT 2009

(**PARMA**) – The City of Parma is joining a community-wide effort to support the Parma Area Family Collaborative during its annual coats and boots collection drive. The Collaborative is a grant-funded program administered by the Parma City School District.

"Any program that offers to help those in need in our community is a good cause," said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "The economy is forcing many of our neighbors to take advantage of projects like this so they can make it through the winter. We're happy to do whatever we can to lend a hand."

The City of Parma's recent fundraising drive for the Collaborative raised more than \$200 during its "dress down" Fridays. The Collaborative is providing laundered, like- new coats to more than 200 children and adults. New hats and gloves are also needed. Clothing can be dropped-off at Parma City Hall, 6611 Ridge Road and Parma Baptist Church, 12193 West Pleasant Valley Road.

The group's mission is to build a stronger and more connected community by nurturing youth and strengthening families. The Collaborative also promotes child well being and safety in the home, school and community.

"Our campaign to help the community is a win-win situation for everyone," said Director Mary Wise. "The Collaborative is making a difference by improving the quality of life in our area. And those donating their time and clothing gain just as much as the children and adults they are helping."

Businesses partners already assisting in projects throughout the year include Parma Community General Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, On the Spot, Betty Brite and Avalon Dry Cleaners, Swift Print, the Cuyahoga County Library Parma branches and several local churches.

You can call 440-887-4873 for more information on the PCSD Parma Area Family Collaborative.