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LEAP Recognizes the Cleveland Foundation for Three Decades of Collaboration

Outstanding Community Partner Award Presented Sept. 14

(Sept. 28, 2017) Cleveland, OH- Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP), a Northeast Ohio non-profit organization serving people with disabilities, has presented their 2017 Outstanding Community Partner Award to the Cleveland Foundation in recognition of three decades of formal collaboration. The 2017 Outstanding Community Partner award was presented in person to Foundation representatives Paul Putman and Michelle Blackford on Thursday, Sept. 14 at LEAP’s 36th Anniversary celebration at the Breen Center in Ohio City.

According to LEAP Executive Director Melanie Hogan, “Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP) recognizes the Cleveland Foundation for their longstanding commitment to disability services program funding in Northeast Ohio. The Cleveland Foundation has been one of LEAP’s longest standing partners, first supporting our work on behalf of persons with disabilities in 1987 by funding advocacy efforts dedicated to the struggle toward equality and dignity for people with disabilities.

The Cleveland Foundation’s clear dedication to programs that meet key community needs for vulnerable populations has provided LEAP with over a million dollars of financial support over the past three decades. The Foundation has supported growth and innovation in LEAP programming, and has stood beside LEAP in the most challenging of years. The Foundation’s belief in our mission, and our ability to meet emerging critical community needs, has been used to create and sustain the most comprehensive and high-quality array of programs and services designed for persons with disabilities in Northeast Ohio.”

Founded more than 35 years ago by people with disabilities, LEAP serves over 1,700 individuals annually, and works to promote social change to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities. LEAP assists people with disabilities to live independently in their own homes, participate in recreation and community life, and find and maintain suitable competitive employment.

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LEAP is a federally recognized Center for Independent Living (CIL). CILs are non-residential places of action and coalition where persons with disabilities learn and develop necessary skills, empowering them to make their own life choices. In addition, LEAP is accredited by CARF International, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, which is the major international accrediting agency for health and human service providers. To learn more about the many programs and services provided by LEAP to persons with disabilities, visit LEAP: www.leapinfo.org or call 216.696.2716.

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