

For more information contact:

Marla Rawson
Marketing & PR Manager
OneCommunity
Office: 216.923.2252
Cell: 216.272.9567
mrawson@onecommunity.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OneCommunity Delivers Progress Report to the Community with Completion of
First Phase of the Connect Akron Wireless Network**
Ten Square Mile Wireless Network to be Completed by October

(Akron, OH) June 19, 2009 – OneCommunity, a regional technology nonprofit and operator of Akron-based Knight Center of Digital Excellence delivered a progress report to the community today, and demonstrated the first Phase of the Connect Akron Wireless Network.

The wireless network, a collaborative effort between OneCommunity, the City of Akron, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and other partners will provide open network access to approximately 10 square miles of Akron.

The first mile of the Connect Akron Wireless Network stretches down South Main Street from Market to Exchange and includes Cascade Plaza, Lock 3, and the Akron Civic Theatre, along with buildings and sidewalk cafes adjacent to Main Street.

The second phase of wireless access will roll out through the summer, and is scheduled to be completed by October. The 10 square mile network will include Downtown Akron with its 31,000 employees, all major medical centers, and includes the Urban League to the South, Portage Path School of Technology to the West, the North Hill Library to the North, and Goodyear to the East. Also included in the 10 square miles is the Airport Industrial Park on Triplett Boulevard, and the neighborhood business districts in Firestone Park, Sand Run, and Kenmore. Areas will continue to “light up” as the work progresses, and services will be available to many areas prior to October as the network continues to be built, deployed, and tested.

“OneCommunity is proud to partner with the City of Akron to provide a technology infrastructure that leverages Fiber, Wi-Fi and WiMax technologies to create an innovative and sustainable network that can be used by citizens, health and safety, and government offices,” said Mark Ansbury, senior vice president and Chief Technical Officer at OneCommunity.

“The Akron Wireless Initiative holds great promise for the future,” said Mayor Don Plusquellic. “Akron has learned from cities that were on the cutting edge of this technology and were not able to develop successful business models. With OneCommunity and the Knight Foundation, I believe that we are pioneering this new technology responsibly.”

OneCommunity is keeping Akron residents up-to-date at www.connectakron.org, sponsored by The Knight Center of Digital Excellence. The website allows the community to monitor the network’s

construction as well as post questions and have them answered through the Connect Akron Blog written by OneCommunity's engineering staff.

Akron has invested \$475,000 in the construction of the wireless area. Other partners contributing to the project include Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., The Akron Community Foundation, The GAR Foundation, and The Corbin Foundation.

About OneCommunity

OneCommunity is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering economic and civic progress through the innovative and collaborative application of information technologies. OneCommunity connects more than 1,000 public and nonprofit institutions via its fiber-optic broadband network - one of the largest and fastest in the world - and leverages public and private partnerships to support 21st-century programs in health care, education, government and economic development. OneCommunity also operates the Akron-based Knight Center of Digital Excellence, dedicated to creating connected communities throughout the United States. To learn more, please visit www.onecommunity.org.