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ATLANTA BELTLINE PARTNERSHIP AND THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION TO HOST PITTSBURGH RISE FESTIVAL

Free-admission event that includes food, hoops, chess, balloon rides, gospel and home tours in southwest Atlanta's Pittsburgh neighborhood May 21 will be open to public

ATLANTA - The Atlanta BeltLine Partnership has teamed up with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to host **Pittsburgh Rise**, a neighborhood festival, **Saturday, May 21, from 4 to 10 p.m.** This unique outdoor event will feature activities and live music and is expected to draw hundreds of people from around the city.

Pittsburgh Rise celebrates the budding revitalization of several neighborhoods along the Atlanta BeltLine Southside Trail corridor. The Pittsburgh community has been part of the Casey Foundation's work in Atlanta for more than a decade. In 2001, Casey — started by the founder of Atlanta-based UPS — began working in several low-income neighborhoods near Turner Field to increase opportunities for children and families living in those communities. Pittsburgh Rise will take place on the 31-acre site at 352 University Avenue, which borders Pittsburgh, to capitalize on the positive energy and strong sense of community in that part of town.

"We are proud to partner with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, an organization with an ongoing place-based effort to revitalize and strengthen neighborhoods in southwest Atlanta, as well as with our sponsors WellStar Atlanta Medical Center and Citizens Trust Bank," said Chuck Meadows, executive director of the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership. "Our goal is to embrace these communities as Atlanta BeltLine neighborhoods and do what we can to help these residents realize their goals for their community."

The multifaceted event will kick off with the Southside Atlanta Home Tour at 4 p.m., showcasing newly renovated homes and lots available in the historic Atlanta BeltLine communities of Pittsburgh and South Atlanta. The day's main attraction is a set of hot air balloons ready to take festival-goers on a tethered ride hundreds of feet into the air. The Taste of the Southside will feature local culinary favorites. The Southside Trail 3-on-3 Basketball Tipoff will involve children from the two Centers of Hope in the area, and the Southside Checkmate Championship will match 50 young chess players against one another. Rounding out the day of family fun is the Southern Crescent Choir Competition, with gospel groups from around Atlanta.

"We're thrilled about this opportunity to share with the rest of the city what we already know: Pittsburgh is a special place undergoing transformation," said Kweku Forstall, who oversees the Foundation's work in Atlanta. "We hope to see people from the neighborhood and beyond join in this extraordinary celebration of a historic BeltLine community with an exciting future."

Event organizers are looking for sponsors and organizations that wish to exhibit or otherwise support Pittsburgh Rise and the surrounding communities. Community partners include Atlanta City Councilmember Joyce Shepherd, Atlanta Public Schools, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, Charis Community Housing, Committed to Communities and Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association, among others.

For more information about Pittsburgh Rise, please visit <http://beltline.org/pittsburgh-rise/>.
For sponsorship information, please contact Salisha Evans, director of partnerships, at Salisha@atlblp.org.

About the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership: The Atlanta BeltLine is a sustainable redevelopment project that is among the largest, most wide-ranging urban revitalization programs currently underway in the United States. The project is creating a 22-mile loop of public parks, multi-use trails and transit along a set of historic railroad corridors.

The Atlanta BeltLine Partnership enables the project by raising funds from the private sector and philanthropic community, engages the public through programming and outreach and empowers the residents of the 45 Atlanta BeltLine neighborhoods through targeted partnerships in the areas of health, housing and hope.

About the Annie E. Casey Foundation: The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation's children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit www.aecf.org.