



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza River North Forms Partnership with George Manierre Elementary School

Chicago, IL – 8/25/15 – For the upcoming 2015–2016 school year, the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza River North (www.martplaza.com) has partnered with George Manierre Elementary School (www.manierrefergusoncpc.org), located at 1420 North Hudson Avenue in Chicago, less than two miles from the hotel. Under the direction of Tina Beverly, Human Resources Director, and the Mart Plaza Promise Committee with the leadership of Brian Cooney, General Manager, have adopted George Manierre Elementary School, whose mission is to develop its Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade students to be empowered, ethical and moral thinkers, motivated leaders, proficient problem solvers, open minded citizens, well rounded individuals, empathetic participants in society, decision makers, engaged lifelong learners and determined to persevere. Last year, George Manierre Elementary School was among six schools targeted for closing, but by the leadership of Principal Derrick Orr and Assistant Principal Dr. Tinishi Davis, the school was removed from probation in 2014 and the school is now at Level 2+ and in “Good Standing.” What began as a school supply drive to benefit the students of George Manierre Elementary School has evolved into a year-long partnership and program between the school and the Mart Plaza.

During the month of August, the Mart Plaza Promise Committee coordinated an employee-wide school supply drive collecting over 2,000 supplies consisting of book bags, notebooks, composition books, folders, binders, and variety of pencils, sharpeners, and pens to be donated to George Manierre Elementary School. During the collection of school supplies and after numerous requests by employees to continue the outreach, Mart Plaza Human Resources Director, Tina Beverly & Mart Plaza General Manager, Brian Cooney, agreed that the support and partnership would be extended to last the entire school year. With a program that encompasses tutoring and mentoring, Career Day, Reading Day, incentives such as overnight stays at the Mart Plaza for students based on attendance, grades, and behavior, as well as a Professional Development for Teachers luncheon, are among the programs to be implemented throughout the upcoming school year.

As a former student of George Manierre Elementary School, Assistant Principle Dr. Tinishi Davis understands and has lived through the struggles her students face on a daily basis. “Although we face challenges of educating children who come to school with low morale and lack of focus, I work extremely hard to empower my students to feel better about themselves, despite the neighborhood where they live. I see the good in my students. I love them all.” Mart Plaza Human Resources Director, Tina Beverly states, “The Mart Plaza is excited to continue the love and support shown for the students, teachers, and administrators of George Manierre Elementary School and look forward to a great partnership throughout the school year!”

The Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza River North is a full service, 521 room hotel located in the bustling River North area that caters to upscale leisure and business clientele. Boasting panoramic views of the Chicago River and famous Chicago Skyline, the contemporary hotel is adjacent to global design hub the Merchandise Mart, and located just blocks from the “Magnificent Mile,” Chicago’s most coveted attractions and the “Loop” business district. For events of any size, the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza River North offers 25,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, tailored event packages, and both intimate and grand wedding celebrations. Varied dining options include Merchants Cafe and Cityscape Bar offering unmatched views of the Chicago skyline and award-winning cocktails.

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