For Immediate Release
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OpenLink Founder and CEO, Coleman Fung, Endows Music and Math Chairs at Mustard Seed School

Hoboken, NJ February 1, 2007 Long Island entrepreneur and philanthropist, Coleman Fung made an unprecedented gift in excess of $500,000 to fund the Coleman Fung Chair for Music and the Coleman Fung Chair for Math at Mustard Seed School. This gift recognizes and supports the scholarly pursuits and teaching excellence of faculty members in leadership at Mustard Seed School. The chairs are designed to secure the highest quality math and music programs and support leaders committed to excellence in their respective fields.

Fung, a longtime friend and advisor to Mustard Seed School, announced his pledge to fund two endowed chairs at the school's Spring Banquet. He pledged an additional gift of $25,000 to fund the music and math chairs beginning this school year. "I'm thrilled to be able to honor these distinguished teachers, who are making such significant contributions to urban education," Fung says. "I am delighted to wholeheartedly endorse and support Mustard Seed School, its leadership, its teachers, and its students."

By recommendation of Head of School, Christine Metzger, Gary D. Lawrence was appointed the first Coleman Fung Chair for Math and Aiko Mauldin was appointed the first Coleman Fung Chair for Music. Lawrence and Mauldin were publicly presented with the chairs at Back to School Night on September 28.

Lawrence, a teacher and administrator at Mustard Seed School since 1993, teaches algebra to 7th and 8th grade students. Grateful for this honor, he says, "It is an immense privilege for me to be named the first occupant of the Coleman Fung Chair for Math. I am excited for the professional growth opportunities this will afford, and for the new teaching resources. Already, the proceeds from the math chair have permitted us to teach Algebra in smaller groupings, with new textbooks, calculators and other materials. Mr. Fung's gift will benefit me and every teacher involved in math instruction at Mustard Seed School"

Mauldin, a trained musician and pianist, came to Mustard Seed School this year to lead the music program. "The endowed chair reaffirms the school's commitment to offer authentic music as a core element of the curriculum. I look forward to exploring possible artists and concerts this fund can support as well as the professional development that will allow me to be an even stronger teacher to the children."

"We are so thankful for this generous gift. These endowed chairs represent Coleman Fung's strong commitment to Mustard Seed's mission." Metzger says. "Aiko Mauldin and Gary Lawrence are ideally qualified to be the first recipients of the Coleman Fung Chairs of Music and Art. I am confident that these funds will allow for amazing professional development opportunities and access to the best resources, materials and technology to enhance the education of students at Mustard Seed."

Mustard Seed School is an independent school in Hoboken, New Jersey, providing a K-8 education to urban students. The school was founded in 1979 to address the educational needs of the urban community, to stimulate and broaden the experiences of city children, and to educate students in an intercultural, interdenominational Christian setting. Mustard Seed School has an intentional mission to the urban poor.

Mustard Seed School has been recognized as an exemplary elementary school by the U.S. Department of Education.

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