



Short North Mourns Loss of Cherished Leader and Friend

COLUMBUS, OH (March 14, 2008) – The Short North Foundation is extremely saddened to announce that beloved advocate and friend Mary Stuessy passed away unexpectedly on March 10 at the age of 31.

Mary was several weeks away from completing training at the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, Virginia to pursue her lifelong dream of working in international diplomacy.

Prior to joining the Foreign Service last spring, Mary was Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager of National City Bank's Thurber Village office. She served as president of The Short North Foundation, board member and treasurer of The Short North Business Association, member of the Short North Pocket Parks Campaign, and board member of the Roy G Biv Gallery. She participated in countless community fundraisers and constantly inspired area supporters to believe in the power of collaboration.

A viewing will be held on March 16 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Schoedinger Funeral Chapel at 1740 Zollinger Road. A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on March 17 at King Avenue Methodist Church at 299 King Avenue. A reception will take place on March 17 at Bristol Bar at 123 East Fifth Avenue from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Mary's family asks that contributions honoring Mary be sent to The Short North Neighborhood Endowment Fund in care of The Columbus Foundation, 1234 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43205.

"Mary's energy and natural ability to bring people together were wonderful and unique," said Stephen Weed, President of the Short North Foundation. "She invited everyone to the table and made even the smallest tasks exciting and fun. She will be deeply missed by all of us at the Foundation."

"We have lost a shining star," said Dan Koch, owner of Columbus Eyeworks and past president of The Short North Foundation. "Mary's energy and vitality were beyond compare. I feel very privileged that she thought of me as her friend and will always carry her close to my heart."

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