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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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The Mind Trust Announces \$3.5 million Gift from Lilly Endowment to Expand Teach For America and The New Teacher Project
Gift Will Increase Indianapolis' Supply of Highly Effective Teachers

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – The Mind Trust is pleased to announce a \$3.5 million gift from Lilly Endowment Inc. to support Teach For America and The New Teacher Project, two high-impact education human capital programs in Indianapolis. Lilly Endowment's investment will enable these two organizations to recruit, train and place as many as 350 teachers and leaders in Indianapolis classrooms. Nearly 33,000 students will benefit.

Teach For America and The New Teacher Project are the nation's top alternative teaching programs. Teach For America recruits outstanding recent college graduates and mid-career professionals to teach in low-income urban and rural public schools. And through its Indianapolis Teaching Fellows program, The New Teacher Project recruits career changers to teach in fields in which there are teacher shortages – math, science, Spanish and special education. Teachers from both programs produce academic results that repeatedly exceed district and state averages. In addition to sourcing quality teachers for the highest-need classrooms, Teach For America and The New Teacher Project teachers provide a human capital supply for broad education reform, as teachers go on to become principals, policymakers, nonprofit leaders and reform advocates.

“Research shows that having excellent teachers three years in a row can help overcome the effects of poverty,” said **Sara B. Cobb, vice president of education at the Indianapolis-based Endowment.** “Teach For America and The New Teacher Project teachers are achieving positive results for students and are therefore playing an important role in closing the achievement gap in Indianapolis.”

The gift supports The Mind Trust's “Grow What Works” campaign, an effort to raise \$18 million to scale the success of six organizations that have achieved dramatic results in and out of the classroom: Teach For America, The New Teacher Project, College Summit, Summer Advantage USA, Teach Plus and Stand for Children. The campaign also invests in innovative initiatives that encourage entrepreneurial approaches to education through The Mind Trust's Education Entrepreneur Fellowship and Charter School Incubator. Lilly Endowment's \$3.5 million contribution is in addition to an early \$2 million investment in Teach For America and The New Teacher Project, bringing its total campaign support to \$5.5 million.

“We are enormously grateful for Lilly Endowment’s continued investment in Teach For America and The New Teacher Project, two initiatives working to ensure every Indianapolis student has access to excellent teachers,” said **The Mind Trust Founder and CEO, David Harris**. “In addition to placing great teacher in our classrooms, these programs draw exceptionally talented people to Indianapolis who will be leaders for our schools and community.”

The Mind Trust recruited The New Teacher Project to Indianapolis in 2006 and, with support from Lilly Endowment, Teach For America in 2007. For more information on The Mind Trust or its Grow What Works campaign, visit www.TheMindTrust.org or www.GrowWhatWorks.org or call 317.822.8102.

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The Mind Trust – bold, new education reform

Established in 2006 by CEO David Harris and former Mayor Bart Peterson, The Mind Trust is an Indianapolis-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to dramatically improve public education for underserved children by empowering education entrepreneurs to develop or expand transformative education initiatives. For more information visit its Web site www.TheMindTrust.org.

Lilly Endowment is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 to support the causes of community development, education and religion.