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**THE LATE MATTIE DAVIS TO BE HONORED FOR PARTNERSHIP WITH
UD'S INSTITUTE FOR NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

DAYTON, Ohio — A long-time neighborhood partner with the University of Dayton is being honored posthumously for helping others to understand the “value of community building.”

UD's Institute for Neighborhood and Community Leadership will present the first Mattie Davis Community Builders Award to honor the award's namesake from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom on campus.

Tickets are \$10 a person and the banquet is open to the public. To register call 229-4641. Those planning to attend are encouraged to register by Thursday, May 20. Hosted by UD and called CityLinks '99, the banquet is the fourteenth annual gathering of neighborhood leaders and supporters.

Joe McNeely, founder and president of the Developing Training Institute, will be the keynote speaker at the banquet. McNeely will talk on how DTI, one of the country's leading trainer of community-based organizations, strengthens communities by building the capacity of organizations operating at the neighborhood level.

Davis was founder of the Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition and Solar Garden, a non-profit, community-based organization located in west Dayton. Long before her death in October 1998, Davis encouraged UD's participation in the neighborhood.

“Mattie Davis taught us all how to understand the value of community building, showed us how to work at the neighborhood level and to move communities forward,” said Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., UD president. “It's appropriate that she be linked to this important endeavor.”

The Mattie Davis award will be presented yearly to the individual who reflects Davis' example of inspiration and commitment to community, Fitz said.

- 30 -

For media interviews, call **Dean Lovelace** at Institute for Neighborhood and Community Leadership at (937) 229-4641.