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**MAIN LINERS START WORK ON 2010 GESU SCHOOL FUNDRAISING GALA
HONORING SPIRIT MEDAL WINNER DR. JOHN J. DIULIO, JR.**

**Led by co-chairs Kay O’Grady of Gladwyne and Cathy Peacock of Berwyn,
the gala committee
will kick off planning with a cocktail party at the Gladwyne home
of George and Dee Hager**

Gladwyne, PA (DEC. 09)– Spring 2010 may seem a long way off, but for the Main Line residents serving on the annual Gesu School fundraising gala committee, it’s not too early to start generating excitement for the festive night.

To kick off the planning, committee co-chairs **Kay O’Grady** of Gladwyne and **Cathy Peacock** of Berwyn will host a cocktail party in early December at the Gladwyne home of **George and Dee Hager**. The gala will raise funds to support scholarships for children to attend Gesu, the North Philadelphia independent Catholic school that’s been heralded as a national model for inner-city education.

At the gala, which will be held at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Gesu leaders will honor University of Pennsylvania professor **Dr. John J. DiIulio, Jr.**, with the Spirit Medal for showing extraordinary commitment to the school and making significant contributions toward its success. He follows in the footsteps of previous honorees **Aline and Al Martinelli, Sue and Bill Shea, Mark Solomon, Ralph Saul** and the late **Jay Sherrerd**.

“John has been with us on this incredible journey for many years, lending invaluable assistance in his roles as educator, benefactor, civic leader, symposium participant and moderator, mentor and all-around cheerleader for quality inner-city education,” says Gesu President and CEO **Chris Beck** of Newtown Square. “Like those who share this incredible honor, he believes that all children can succeed given the right support – and he puts that belief into action every day, through his work and through the many volunteer hours he dedicates to Gesu.”

Gesu serves 460 mostly non-Catholic children in grades pre-K through 8. Without selective admission, the school strives to provide a quality, innovative education for its neighbor children and empower them to break the cycle of poverty and violence. In a neighborhood where only 34 percent of adults over 25 hold a high school diploma, more than 90 percent of Gesu alumni graduate high school, and many go on to college.

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