

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 1, 2007:

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International House, Berkeley Meets \$500,000 Challenge from The Kresge Foundation: More than \$10M secured in 75th Anniversary Campaign

An ambitious campaign honoring the 2005-2006 75th Anniversary year of International House Berkeley has successfully raised over \$10M to support building renovations, scholarships, programs and technology for the residential program center that serves nearly 600 students from the U.S. and around the world. A \$500,000 challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation was secured in the process, a grant that was contingent on the House receiving \$9.5M in gifts from friends, foundations, corporations, and its 60,000 alumni. The mission of the House since 1930 has remained the same: fostering cross-cultural respect, understanding, lifelong friendships and leadership skills for the promotion of a more tolerant and peaceful world.

More than 3,000 donors contributed nearly 5,500 gifts valued at \$10,050,000. The Kresge \$500,000 grant will bring this tally to over \$10.5M. The bulk of funds were raised in support of student scholarships which, through a special program in partnership with the UC Berkeley Graduate Division, enabled qualifying room and board funds to be matched by awards of tuition, fees, and an annual spending stipend — a better than three to one value for contributors in some instances. Although the campaign formally concluded March 1, 2007, the “Gateway” scholarship partnership is in effect through June 30, 2007.

Gifts valued at nearly \$3.5M were also raised for major capital improvements to the International House facility, an icon of the east bay hills recognized principally for the dramatic dome that tops the 240,000 square foot Spanish-Moorish building. Campaign funds will be used to complete an overhaul of the seventy-five year old plumbing systems and to further improvements in amenities for persons with disabilities.

Joe Lurie, Executive Director of I-House for the last twenty years and only the third person to serve in this role since the house opened in 1930, led the campaign in conjunction with a Campaign Leadership Committee headed by Peter J. Robertson, Vice-Chairman of Chevron. Mr. Lurie will step down from his position in June of this year.

A series of alumni reunions and special events were held worldwide in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary and to secure support for the campaign, including gatherings in London, Tokyo, New York, Paris, Milan, Singapore, Melbourne, and Los Angeles, as well as many events held on-site at I-House, including a Valentine’s Dinner to honor the nearly 1,000 married couples the House has brought together.

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