

## For Immediate Release

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### **OneCommunity partners with LaunchHouse to create First NEO “Fiberhood”** *Adds high-speed fiber to Lee and Chagrin corridor to attract new businesses*

**Cleveland, OH – September 18, 2013** – LaunchHouse, a collaborative ecosystem designed to foster entrepreneurship through coworking spaces, educational programming and a vast resource network, the City of Shaker Heights and OneCommunity, a nonprofit that owns and operates a high-speed all-fiber network spanning 24 counties and over 2,000 miles in Northeast Ohio, have partnered to bring next-generation Gigabit broadband to the Lee/Chagrin corridor, creating the first Fiberhood in Northeast Ohio.

The City of Shaker Heights repurposed a former car dealership on Lee Road to provide a home for LaunchHouse’s portfolio companies and to spur the revitalization of the commercial district. LaunchHouse and OneCommunity initially partnered to bring gigabit fiber to the 23,000 square foot car dealership that is Shaker LaunchHouse, home to more than 100 Northeast Ohio entrepreneurs. However, it was the addition of OneCommunity fiber to the entrepreneurial houses, owned by Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland, on Chelton Road behind Shaker LaunchHouse that sparked the idea of the Fiberhood.

The expansion of OneCommunity fiber throughout the Lee/Chagrin corridor will be a draw for budding business, especially tech-oriented entrepreneurs. As the number of municipalities embracing and fostering entrepreneurship as a means of driving economic development increases, so will competition to attract the most promising new companies. Easy access to fiber is the differentiating factor that makes LaunchHouse and the Lee/Chagrin corridor in Shaker Heights a destination for entrepreneurs and small businesses. “The establishment of cutting edge partnerships is what happens when creative people, innovative places and shared passions come together,” said Todd Goldstein, CEO and managing partner at LaunchHouse. “With economic development at the core of LaunchHouse and OneCommunity’s missions, the partnership between our organizations is the catalyst for a renaissance - Aiming to brighten and grow an often-times, overlooked area within Shaker Heights.”

“The announcement of the Fiberhood in the Lee/Chagrin area builds on the success of Shaker LaunchHouse and reaffirms the City’s strategy to revitalize the business district and surrounding

neighborhoods through the growth of the entrepreneurial community in Greater Cleveland” added Mayor of Shaker Heights, Earl Leiken.

LaunchHouse and OneCommunity are looking to build on the success that Google Fiber had in Kansas City. The Kansas City Startup Village, which is comprised of tech industry professionals and entrepreneurs, organically formed as a direct result of access to high-speed fiber Internet.

“The OneCommunity fiberhood initiative is a private-public partnership to extend our world-leading, next-generation network into Northeast Ohio’s neighborhoods.” Says Lev Gonick, OneCommunity CEO, “OneCommunity supports cities and community development centers seeking to create a distinctive attraction and retention strategy for economic development and for initiative that celebrate innovation, collaboration, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills acquisition and neighborhood-based entrepreneurship.”

Establishing Northeast Ohio as a hub for innovation and economic growth will take time, but it’s taking root in Shaker Heights with the vision of LaunchHouse and OneCommunity.

#### **About LaunchHouse**

LaunchHouse provides a collaborative ecosystem designed to foster entrepreneurship through coworking spaces, educational programming and a vast resource network to help transform early-stage startups from ideas to successful businesses. Since 2008, LaunchHouse has provided more than \$500,000 in investment capital, and through its development efforts these companies have raised millions of dollars in follow-on funding. Visit [www.launchhouse.com](http://www.launchhouse.com) for more information.

#### **About OneCommunity**

Established as a nonprofit in 2003, OneCommunity is working to turn Northeast Ohio into a “Smart Region” – one that directs its resources and investment to support technological innovation, highly efficient and customer-centric public services, and a superb overall quality of life for its citizens. Technology is vital to this transformation, keyed by OneCommunity’s ultra-high-speed, fiber-optic broadband network, which covers over 2,000 miles around Northeast Ohio and provides data service for more than 2,300 public institutions such as hospitals, schools, libraries and government offices.

#### **About the City of Shaker Heights**

Just eight miles from downtown Cleveland, Shaker Heights is a walkable, cosmopolitan and distinctive suburb. It has a national reputation for excellent schools, extraordinary natural beauty, architecturally exquisite homes and superior city services. Shaker Heights is Cleveland’s most prestigious suburb – with tree-lined neighborhoods and miles of sidewalks that invite residents to stroll, chat with each other, and stay for a lifetime! Visit [shakeronline.com](http://shakeronline.com) and [work-live-shakerheights.com](http://work-live-shakerheights.com) for more information.

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