**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

 

**$50,000 Endowment Fund for Historic Tampa Union Station Established at Community Foundation of Tampa Bay**

**Grant to Be Announced at National Train Day at Tampa Union Station, Saturday May 7**

Tampa (FL), April 29, 2011—Historic Tampa Union Station is receiving a $50,000 endowment grant which will benefit its ongoing restoration.

The new endowment will help to ensure a bright future for Tampa Union Station, a fixture in Downtown Tampa. The 1912 building, which was designed by architect J.F. Leitner, also serves as Tampa’s Amtrak station.

The Tampa Union Station Preservation Fund at the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay will generate recurring revenue each year to support the station. Friends of Tampa Union Station led a fundraising campaign for the endowment. In turn, those donations were matched by a challenge grant from the Community Foundation.

In 2008, Friends of Tampa Union Station, with the help of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, set out to establish the endowment for Union Station and fund it at an initial $50,000 level. The announcement at National Train Day commemorates the recent achievement of this goal.

“This was truly a grassroots fundraising campaign. And we were amazed by the response,” said Jackson McQuigg, President of the nonprofit Friends of Tampa Union Station and a volunteer. “Donations came in through the mail, from our website, and via Facebook from all parts of the country.”

A representative of Mayor Bob Buckhorn’s office, Tampa City Councilman Frank Reddick, and Tampa City Councilwoman Mary Mulhern will be on hand to accept a ceremonial check from the Friends group and the Community Foundation at 2 PM on National Train Day.

Tampa Union Station, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is owned by the City of Tampa. Once badly dilapidated and boarded-up, the station was restored in 1998 in large part due to the efforts of Tampa Union Station Preservation & Redevelopment, a volunteer-led civic group which worked with Tampa historic preservation professionals to acquire state, federal, local, and private grants for the building’s restoration.

National Train Day marks 142 years of connecting travelers coast to coast and commemorates the day the first transcontinental railroad was created. On May 10, 1869, in Promontory Summit, Utah, the golden spike was driven into the final tie that joined 1,776 miles of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railways, transforming America by creating the nation‘s first transcontinental railroad.

The National Train Day celebration at Tampa Union Station will feature special Amtrak equipment open for tours, model railroad displays, live music, and exhibits from organizations ranging from the Tampa Bay History Center to the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library.

The National Train Day event runs from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM. Admission is free.

More information about National Train Day at Tampa Union Station can be found on the web at the Friends of Tampa Union Station website, [www.tampaunionstation.com](http://www.tampaunionstation.com) or at the Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers website, www.fcrprail.org.

*National Train Day at Tampa Union Station 2011 Presenting Sponsors*:

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*With Special Thanks To:*

* Amtrak
* City of Tampa
* Hillsborough County Tourist Development Council

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