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**Federal Budget Analyst and Fiscal Champion Honored with
\$250,000 Heinz Award for Public Policy**

**Robert Greenstein recognized for representing the interests of
low- and middle-income Americans on federal budget issues**

PITTSBURGH, September 9, 2008 – A former federal administrator, who is now a universally respected advocate for the nation’s low- and moderate-income families in matters related to the federal budget, has been selected to receive the 14th annual Heinz Award for Public Policy, among the largest individual achievement prizes in the world.

Robert Greenstein, 62, of Washington, D.C., the founding executive director of the non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which analyzes the impact of federal and state budget and tax initiatives on the country’s low- and moderate-income people, is among five distinguished Americans selected to receive one of the \$250,000 awards, presented by the Heinz Family Foundation.

“Robert Greenstein has provided a strong, honest and sometimes solitary voice on behalf of the interests of millions of Americans, particularly those whose voice in Washington is often muted within the corridors of power,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. “For close to three decades, Mr. Greenstein has been holding the federal government accountable for decisions that affect our nation’s low-income families and has earned a reputation among both parties as an honest, objective, thorough and credible source of information, particularly within a polarized political climate. Through his Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, he has

established nothing less than a fourth branch of government, one that is invaluable to ensuring that the interests of all Americans are protected. We are indebted to his life's work and pleased to honor him with the 14th annual Heinz Award for Public Policy.”

As the founder of the Washington, D.C.-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Mr. Greenstein has served as a thoughtful and persuasive advocate on behalf of low- and moderate-income Americans. Respected by policymakers on both sides of the political aisle, Mr. Greenstein has provided a clear and exacting voice in matters affecting millions of people. He is widely viewed as an unbiased, authoritative expert on a range of fiscal policy and poverty issues, and his work has helped improve the economic outlook of many of America's poorer citizens.

Before creating the center in 1981, Mr. Greenstein served as administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he oversaw the Food Stamp Program, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program and the school lunch and other child nutrition programs. In this position, Mr. Greenstein played a central role in designing and implementing major policy reforms that substantially reduced hunger by providing food stamp and WIC assistance to millions of very poor families and children who previously had been left out.

Named by the *National Journal* as one of the “most influential people affecting policy,” Mr. Greenstein has played a significant role in a broad array of federal initiatives. Among his signature accomplishments, he helped over two decades to significantly expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-income working families – which increasingly lifts more children out of poverty than any other federal program – while organizing (through the center) a national effort to ensure that eligible families know about the credit and apply for it. The center also created the concept of state EITCs to further ease the tax burdens on working-poor families and, working with a network of state policy institutes that the center helped create, has assisted 23 states in establishing such credits.

Under Mr. Greenstein's leadership, the center also designed a requirement – which Congress adopted on a bipartisan basis – that states use competitive bidding to purchase infant formula for

the WIC program. This measure saves about \$1.5 billion a year, enabling WIC to provide an additional two million mothers and children with nutritious WIC foods and related nutrition services each month.

In recent years, Mr. Greenstein has played a key role in debates about the future of Social Security. In the face of misleading claims, the center played an integral role in assessing the impact of proposed changes. The center also brought much-needed clarity to the debate over fiscal policy in recent years by exposing budget “gimmicks” that promoters of various tax and spending proposals used to advocate their initiatives. The center demonstrated, for example, that the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts would ultimately cost the federal Treasury hundreds of billions of dollars more than advertised.

The center’s work extends far beyond Washington. It works extensively on fiscal policy and poverty issues on the state level, and it helps non-profit groups in developing countries and new democracies promote open debates on budget priorities, especially a budget’s impact on the poor. *Forces for Good*, a 2007 book, listed the center as one of the 12 “most successful non-profits founded in recent U.S. history.”

“This nation is on an unsustainable fiscal path due to rising health care costs, an inadequate revenue base and an aging population,” Mr. Greenstein said. “The center will work hard in the coming years to help policymakers restore fiscal responsibility in ways that also reduce poverty and inequality. We have shown in the past that fiscal responsibility and expanded opportunity can go hand in hand, and we will redouble our efforts to promote these twin goals of public policy.

“I thank the Heinz Family Foundation for bestowing upon me the honor of this award, which I accept on behalf of the wonderful and talented staff at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities who have worked so hard to make public policy more responsive to the concerns of millions of low- and moderate-income Americans.”

Later this year, Mr. Greenstein also will receive the John W. Gardner Leadership Award from Independent Sector, awarded each year to an individual working in the charitable community who has advanced the common good by mobilizing and unifying people, institutions or causes that improve people's lives.

Since 1993, the Heinz Family Foundation of Pittsburgh has recognized individuals whose dedication, skill and generosity of spirit represent the best of the human qualities that the late Senator Heinz, for whom the award is named, held so dear.

Presented in five categories, the other Heinz Award recipients are:

- **Arts and Humanities: Ann Hamilton**, 52, visual artist and educator, from Columbus, Ohio
- **Environment: Thomas FitzGerald**, 53, founder and director of the Kentucky Resources Council, from Louisville, Ky.
- **Human Condition: Brenda Krause Eheart**, Ph.D., 64, founder of Generations of Hope and Hope Meadows, from Champaign, Ill.
- **Technology, the Economy and Employment: Joseph DeRisi**, Ph.D., 38, molecular biologist, researcher and inventor, from San Francisco, Calif.

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About the Heinz Foundation

The Heinz Family Foundation, one of the Heinz Family Philanthropies, began as a charitable trust established by the late Senator Heinz in 1984. His widow, Teresa Heinz, created the Heinz Awards in 1993 as the primary activity of the foundation. In addition to the Heinz Awards, the foundation directs a grant-making program that is active in a wide range of issues, principally those concerning women's health and environment, health care cost and coverage, as well as pensions and retirement security.

Nominations for the Heinz Awards are submitted by an invited Council of Nominators, all experts in their fields, who serve anonymously. Award recipients are selected by the board of directors for the Heinz Awards upon recommendation by a blue-ribbon panel of jurors in each category.

Past recipients of the Heinz Awards include author Dave Eggers, personal computer inventor Steve Wozniak, energy authority Amory Lovins, gerontologist Robert Butler, medical anthropologist Paul Farmer, global warming scientist James Hansen, marine biologist Jane Lubchenco and Paul Anastas, a leader in the "green chemistry" movement.

In addition to the \$250,000 award for their unrestricted use, recipients are presented with a medallion inscribed with the image of Senator Heinz on one side and a rendering of a globe passing between two hands on the other. The medallion symbolizes the partnership, continuity and values carried on to the next generation. The hands also suggest passing on the stewardship of the earth to future generations.

The Heinz Awards will be presented at a private ceremony in Pittsburgh on October 21.

Additional information is available online at www.heinzawards.net.

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