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Bank of America Charitable Foundation Honors Orlando Community Leaders with \$450,000 through 2007 *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative*™ Awards

***Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation and
Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida***
Each Receive \$200,000 in Unrestricted Grants

Orlando, FL – The Bank of America Charitable Foundation today announced the recipients of the fourth annual *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative* (NEI) awards in Orlando. These awards recognize and reward individuals and organizations that are making a difference in the Orlando community. With the announcement of this year's award recipients, Bank of America has committed \$1.8 million to date through the *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative* in Orlando.

"This year's NEI award recipients show the kind of leadership and dedication that Bank of America believes is essential to the health and vitality of our community," said Ed Timberlake Central Florida President, Bank of America. "Through this program, our goal is to inspire change at the local level. By supporting these organizations and individuals who create opportunities in our community everyday, we are making Orlando a better place to live."

The *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative* honors awardees in three categories: **Neighborhood Builders**™ – local non-profit organizations working to promote vibrant communities; **Local Heroes**™ – community leaders who contribute significantly to the health of their neighborhoods; and **Student Leaders**™ – exemplary high school students with an interest in improving their neighborhoods. Orlando's 2007 NEI award recipients are as follows:

2007 Neighborhood Builders are:

- **Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation's** mission is to be a leader in providing opportunities for housing that is safe, comfortable, affordable, and long-lasting. With quality housing in a safe environment ONIC takes the shelter problem out of the quest for a better life and enable residents to focus on personal and family development. ONIC has developed/co-developed 2490 units of affordable housing, which has benefited almost 7,000 people. Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation will use its funds to expand its residential services program to reach all 10 communities that ONIC serves.
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida**, provides innovative programming year-round to prepare at-risk youth in the Orlando community to be responsible, contributing members of society. The program's emphasis is placed on the five core areas of Character and Leadership Development; Education and Career Development; Health and Life Skills; The Arts; and Sports, Fitness, and Recreation. The organization offers at-risk young people a safe environment where they can have fun and be themselves and participate in interesting, constructive activities that channel their energy into challenging pursuits. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida will use its funds to improve the quantity and quality of services at the new Pine Hills Club facility.

The Neighborhood Builder award is given to two local non-profit organizations that have actively worked to improve their communities. Recipients receive \$200,000 of “unrestricted” grant funding over the course of two years, which can be used to cover operating expenses and build program capacity. Bank of America is one of the few corporations in the U.S. that provides unrestricted grant funding to non-profit organizations on such a broad basis. In addition, the bank provides an innovative leadership development program for the executive director and an emerging leader from each organization to learn with other non-profit leaders across the country.

2007 Local Heroes are:

- **Shanta Barton Stubbs**, has dedicated her time to helping the children of her community by opening an after school and summer camp to make ensure children have a safe place to go after school. Parents pay a very minimal amount to send their children even though Stubbs receives little community funding. Stubbs will donate her grant to Community Concepts Services, Inc. (The New Image Youth Center).
- **Beth Marshall**, focus much of her time bringing theatre to children in need. She has served as an actor, director and stage manager in various community arts organizations. Her famous character, “The Hip Mother Goose,” visits local hospitals, bringing cheer to terminally ill children. As an activist for those affected by AIDS, Beth donates countless hours to raise money for children who have lost their parents to the disease. Marshall will donate her grant to The Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival.
- **Sister Elizabeth Stoup** dedicates her time to people with special needs. She has spent 45 years running the Morning Star School, a school for special needs children in Orlando. Sister recently opened the Bishop Grady Villas in St. Cloud, FL, a group home for adults with special needs. Sister Stoup will donate her grant to Morning Star School.
- **Ernestine Mosley** is extremely involved in the Orlando community. Her most active role is as Founder/Executive Director of Hi-Tech Tutoring Center, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing after-school, computer-assisted tutoring in the basic skills of reading, writing, mathematics and science for deserving students who are at risk of dropping out of school. It has served nearly 5,000 students to date. Mosley will donate his grant to Hi-Tech Tutoring Center, Inc.
- **Tirso Moreno** advocates for farmworker and immigrant rights at the local, state, regional, national and international levels. He became the community outreach leader for the Farmworker Project of the Office for Farmworker Ministry in 1982, during which time he and several other farmworkers initiated the Farmworker Association of Florida (FWAF). Under his leadership, the Association has grown from a local to a statewide organization with more than 8,000 members. Moreno will donate his grant to FWAF.

In recognition of their contributions to neighborhood vitality, each of the five Local Heroes directs a \$5,000 donation to an eligible non-profit of their choice.

2007 Student Leaders are:

- **Ebun Otegbeye**, Winter Park High School
- **Rochelle Felix**, Robert Hungerford Preparatory High School
- **Cameron Blake**, Edgewater High School
- **Juliannette Vega**, University High School
- **Adam Straka**, Lake Brantley High School
- **Krystle Rojas**, Cypress Creek High School

The NEI Student Leaders are six exemplary high school students with an interest in improving their neighborhoods, and who show great leadership potential. To further their personal and educational growth, each Student Leader participated in a paid, eight-week summer internship with the Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida, as well as a series of leadership training and community service activities.

The Bank of America *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative* began in 2004 to recognize, nurture and reward organizations and individuals helping to rebuild and revitalize their communities. In 2007, the Foundation will commit \$20 million globally to the initiative which operates in 44 of the bank's major markets, bringing the total commitment under the program to nearly \$70 million by the end of this year.

Award recipients in each category were chosen by a local market selection committee chaired by Ed Timberlake of Bank of America. Members of this committee included Ron Blocker, Superintendent Orange County Public Schools; Dr. Rita Bornstein, President Emerita Rollins College; Mark Brewer, President & CEO Community Foundation of Central Florida; Linda Landman-Gonzalez, Director of Diversity & Community Affairs Darden Restaurants; John Hillenmeyer, President & CEO Orlando Regional Healthcare System; John Hitt, President University of Central Florida; Glenda Hood, Former Florida Secretary of State, Former Mayor of Orlando; Henry Maldonado, Vice President & General Manager WKMG; Jacob Stuart, President Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce; Ed Timberlake, President, Central Florida Bank of America.

Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy

Bank of America has embarked on an unprecedented 10-year goal to give \$1.5 billion to nonprofit organizations engaged in improving the quality and vitality of their neighborhoods. The Bank of America Charitable Foundation will give more than \$200 million in 2007, making the bank one of the most generous corporate donors in the world. Bank of America approaches giving through a national strategy called "neighborhood excellence" under which it works with local leaders to identify and meet the most pressing needs of individual communities. Through Team Bank of America, bank associate volunteers contribute more than 500,000 hours each year to improve the quality of life in their communities nationwide. For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, please visit www.bankofamerica.com/foundation.

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