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For Immediate Release

Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman, CPAs, Announces

2007 EXCEL Award Winners

Aldrighetti, Brantley and Funke recognized for leadership

Bethesda, MD, October, 23, 2007 – The Center for Nonprofit Advancement has chosen the winners of the 2007 Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman Excellence in Chief Executive Leadership (EXCEL) Awards. The award recognizes exemplary leadership for nonprofits in the Washington Metropolitan area.

The 2007 GRF EXCEL Award Recipients are:

Rino Aldrighetti of The Pulmonary Hypertension Association in Silver Spring, Maryland. Rino has successfully grown the association from two to 22 staffers and has increased the budget from \$137,000 to almost \$5 million in about nine years. He has been integral in expanding the organization's global network and sharing best practices to improve patient care on an international level.

Lynn Brantley of The Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, DC. Lynn has been fighting hunger in the Washington area for almost 20 years and during that time has built the food bank into a nearly \$9 million organization which distributes 10,000 tons of food annually. Additionally, she has extended the organization's impact to include nutrition education, grocery delivery for the elderly and a tutoring program.

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Mary Funke of N Street Village in Washington, DC. In a little over 3 years, Mary took the N Street Village from the brink of shutting down to a model program and a respected advocate for low-income and homeless women. Due in no small part to her collaborative management style, Mary was also able to reduce staff turnover, establish a financial reserve and re-open an abandoned substance abuse program.

Receiving Honorable Mentions this year were **Betty Jo Gaines of Bright Beginnings in Washington, DC**, who expanded day-care operations to include evening care for parents with nontraditional work schedules and introduced a professional development program for her staff; and **Chris Hart-Wright of Strive DC in Washington, DC**, who held her staff together through financial troubles in 2006 and secured almost \$30,000 in funding for career-development programs.

Beginning in 2006, GRF chose to sponsor the EXCEL awards because of its long-time support for Washington-area nonprofits and its close relationship with the Center for Nonprofit Advancement. Each awardee receives a \$5,000 professional development account for their continued growth as leaders, and their organizations each receive a \$2,000 cash grant to support their missions. Honorable Mentions will each receive \$500 to support professional development programs for their staff. The awards will be presented at a breakfast on December 5, 2007 hosted by the Center for Nonprofit advancement at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center.

Bethesda, MD-based Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman, CPAs (www.grfcpa.com) has been part of the Washington, DC metropolitan community for over 25 years. The firm provides accounting, auditing and consulting services to an extensive client base of nonprofit organizations, for-profit corporations including government contractors, research and development firms, retail businesses, professional service firms, partnerships, trusts, and individual clients. GRF is a full-service accounting firm with national and international affiliations.

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