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Greater Washington Community Leaders Recognized by Bank of America Through Third Annual Neighborhood Excellence Initiative™ Awards

Bank Recognizes Washington, D.C. Not-for-Profits, Individuals and Students with \$450,000 to Improve and Reshape Their Community

D.C. Central Kitchen and Arlington Free Clinic Each to Receive \$200,000 in Unrestricted Grants

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Bank of America today announced the 2006 recipients of its third annual *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative* (NEI) awards in Greater Washington. These recipients include individuals and organizations dedicated to improving the Greater Washington community.

The Bank of America *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative* commenced in 2004 to recognize, nurture and reward organizations, local heroes and student leaders helping to rebuild and revitalize their communities. In its first three years, Bank of America has committed over \$48 million to the national program which operates in 40 of the bank's major markets across the country. With the announcement of this year's award recipients, Bank of America has committed over \$1.3 million to date through the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative in Greater Washington.

"The impetus behind the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative is to increase the impact of our giving by building partnerships with non-profit organizations, recognizing distinguished volunteers and cultivating the next generation of community leaders," explained William Couper, Mid-Atlantic President, Bank of America. "Bank of America recognizes that each of these groups is essential to sustaining vital neighborhoods and through this program, we strive to support each of these critical stakeholders and enable even greater community revitalization in the Greater Washington area."

The Bank of America *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative* was developed to identify and then address local priorities for each individual community. "In Washington, the recipients have shown extraordinary leadership in addressing the workforce development and affordable healthcare issues that affect our community," added Couper.

The Neighborhood Excellence Initiative provides essential support through three key programs:

Neighborhood Builders™: \$200,000 in grant funding and leadership training over the course of two years to two Greater Washington local non-profit organizations working to promote vibrant neighborhoods. These grants are "unrestricted funds" and can be used by the organization to cover operating expenses and build program capacity. This year's Washington, D.C. Neighborhood Builders are:

- **D.C. Central Kitchen** works not only to provide meals to the homeless community in Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland, but also promotes self-sufficiency by preparing unemployed and homeless adults for careers in the foodservice industry. Since the launch of its job-training program in 1990, the organization has placed more than 500 individuals in the foodservice industry. D.C Central Kitchen also employs graduates of the program through its catering company and recently began a healthy eating program for Washington D.C. area youth. The organization will be using their \$200,000 NEI grant to support four key areas. First, DC Central Kitchen will acquire updated kitchen equipment, specifically new convection ovens, a combination oven, and a Robo-Coupe. The award will also support the purchase of the DonorPerfect software system to improve donor stewardship and cultivation. The Culinary Job Training program will also benefit from additional internships and field trips. Workshops and training seminars will also be provided for DC Central Kitchen's leadership team.
- **Arlington Free Clinic** is a nonprofit, community-based, volunteer-driven organization committed to providing access to quality health care services to low-income, uninsured county residents. Annually, the organization provides more than 6,500 onsite medical visits in areas such as primary care, specialty care, mental health, women's health and physical therapy. The organization is also recognized for its team of almost 500 volunteers who work to support the clinic. Arlington Free Clinic will use the NEI grant to develop the organization's infrastructure. Both the addition of administrative staff to support the development and executive functions, and staff education are specifically identified for funding. The NEI award will enhance AFC's resource development capacity, strengthen partnerships with community organizations, and permit AFC to expand the delivery of high quality comprehensive health care services in Arlington County.

Local Heroes™: recognition of five community heroes whose achievements and leadership on local issues contributes significantly to neighborhood vitality. Recipients will direct a \$5,000 contribution to an eligible nonprofit of their choice. Greater Washington's Local Heroes, along with their selected non-profit organizations, are:

- **Dr. Martin Eichelberger**, a surgeon who created the pediatric trauma unit at Children's National Medical Center in response to the growing number of accidental childhood injuries. Along with the trauma unit, Eichelberger launched a global organization, Keep Kids Safe, to educate parents and medical practitioners about the importance of preventing of childhood injuries. Eichelberger will direct his \$5,000 NEI grant to Safe Kids Worldwide.
- **Michelle Schuller** has worked tirelessly to make free medical and dental services available to underserved individuals in her community through the Prince William County Free Clinic. Schuller's efforts have helped the clinic facilitate more than 100 medical visits each week. Schuller will direct her \$5,000 NEI grant to Prince William Area Free Clinic.
- **Minnon Friedman**, a 98-year-old retired third grade teacher, has given time every week for the past decade as a volunteer for the D.C.-area Everybody Wins program, reading to and mentoring students. Friedman has shown continued dedication to the program and assisted many children through her years of service. Friedman will direct her \$5,000 NEI grant to Everybody Wins! DC.
- **Rhonda Willingham** is the founder of MenzFit, a nonprofit organization that helps create permanent, long-term employment for the local population of low-income men. Through MenzFit, Willingham has worked with local organizations to provide individuals with professional clothing, skills training and career development services. Willingham will be directing her NEI grant to MenzFit.

- **Dr. Tsehaye Teferra** has been an advocate for new immigrants in the Arlington area for the past 25 years. As founder of the Ethiopian Community Development Council, he has worked with local organizations and become a leading voice in the community on African refugee and immigrant issues. Teferra will direct his \$5,000 NEI grant to ECDC Enterprise Development Group.

Student Leaders™: development of five exemplary high school students with an interest in improving their neighborhoods. To further their personal and educational growth, Bank of America provides funding for each student to participate in a paid, eight-week summer internship with a community-based organization as well as a series of leadership training and community service activities with Bank of America executives. The five Student Leaders in Greater Washington are:

- **Anahi Martinez**, Freedom High School
- **Deborah You**, Oakton High School
- **Katlin Griswold**, Oakcrest High School
- **Brittany Harrison**, Charles Herbert Flowers High School
- **Jamie Lin**, Springbrook High School

Award recipients were chosen by a local selection committee comprised of key members of the Washington, D.C. community and chaired by Couper. Greater Washington committee members included:

- J. Fernando Barrueta, President and CEO, Hispanic College Fund
- Maudine R. Cooper, President and CEO, Greater Washington Urban League
- Richard J. Hajjar, Real Estate Regional Executive, Bank of America
- Kathleen T. Snyder, President & CEO, Maryland Chamber of Commerce
- C. Jeannan Peterson, Market Development Manager, Bank of America

Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy

In 2005, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation embarked on an unprecedented \$1.5 billion philanthropic goal over the next 10 years. The bank has announced it will donate \$200 million in 2006, making Bank of America one of the most generous corporate donors in the country. The bank 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 communities. Through Team Bank of America, bank associate volunteers contribute more than 650,000 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.

Bank of America

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