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DATE: June 22, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PHOTO ATTACHED: Caption at bottom of this release

Bridge Communities Receives \$10,000 Grant from Bank of America

On June 19, 2009, Bridge Communities – a non-profit, transitional housing program serving homeless families in DuPage County was presented a grant donation of \$10,000 from Bank of America.

The grant will be used to support Bridge Communities' transitional housing program as we work to help homeless families move toward self sufficiency, financial independence and permanent housing.

“Bridge Communities continues to hear from more and more DuPage County families experiencing a housing crisis,” reports Joyce Hothan, executive director of Bridge Communities. “So we were thrilled to receive a grant that was twice as much as we have received in previous years. A \$10,000 grant will support one family for an entire year.”

Bridge Communities partners with 43 faith-based and community-action groups in DuPage County to serve more than 100 homeless families each year. The community partners provide mentors who encourage and work with a family over a two-year period to help them develop life-skills and financial literacy that will lead to long-term independence.

“Bank of America is committed to providing meaningful and impactful support to our communities even in challenging times such as these,” said Sharon Esposito, Consumer Market Executive for Bank of America. “We are proud to support the efforts that Bridge Communities provides to those who need their services.”

Bridge Communities... *connecting homeless families to a better future* ... is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, with offices in Glen Ellyn, whose mission is to provide transitional housing to homeless families in DuPage County through partnerships with faith-based and community organizations who provide mentoring relationships which root homeless families into local neighborhoods. In the past 20 years, Bridge Communities has helped over 2000 people cross the bridge from homelessness to permanent housing. Visit www.bridgecommunities.org for more information about how Bridge is transforming the lives of DuPage County homeless families.

Building on a long-standing tradition of investing in the communities it serves, Bank of America this year embarked on a new, ten-year goal to donate \$2 billion to nonprofit organizations engaged in improving the health and vitality of their neighborhoods. Funded by Bank of America, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation gave more than \$200 million in 2008, making the bank the most generous financial institution in the world and the second largest donor of all U.S. corporations in cash contributions. Bank of America approaches investing 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 contributed more than 900,000 hours in 2008 to enhance the quality of life in their communities nationwide. For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, please visit www.bankofamerica.com/foundation.

Photo Caption: Joyce Hothan (third from left), executive director of Bridge Communities receives \$10,000 grant from Bank of America representatives. Mark Henry, Market Performance Manager - Bank of America; Starr Barus, Administrative Assistant - Bank of America; Joyce Hothan - Executive Director Bridge Communities; Sharon Esposito, Consumer Market Executive SW Suburbs - Bank of America; Lindsey Brown, Glen Ellyn South Banking Center Manager - Bank of America; Mike Arena, Consumer Market Manager SW Suburbs - Bank of America and Steve Schneider, Consumer Market Manager SW Suburbs - Bank of America