



Reston Interfaith, Inc.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Reston Interfaith Awarded \$200,000 Over 2 Years in Unrestricted Funding Through Neighborhood Excellence Initiative® Awards from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation

WHAT: On November 6, 2008, The Bank of America Charitable Foundation announced two Greater Washington area nonprofits, Metro Teen AIDS and Reston Interfaith, as recipients of the prestigious *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative* (NEI) Neighborhood Builder awards. Neighborhood Builder winners receive \$200,000 over 2 years in unrestricted grants.

WHY: NEI honors awardees in three categories: Neighborhood Builders™ – local nonprofit organizations working to promote vibrant communities – as well as Local Heroes™ and Student Leaders®. Bank of America is one of the few corporations in the U.S. that provides unrestricted grant funding to nonprofit organizations. This practice is based on Bank of America's belief that corporate philanthropy works best when it sustains community efforts that are based on partnership, leadership development and flexible funding.

Reston Interfaith CEO Kerrie Wilson states, "Bank of America's investment in Reston Interfaith and other Neighborhood Builders speaks to our collective commitment to making a positive difference despite challenging economic circumstances. At a time when "bail out" is on everyone's minds, Bank of America is "buying in" to community-based solutions that work. This award will enhance Reston Interfaith's proven ability to help working families find and maintain affordable housing and quality childcare, and stabilize local people and communities in crisis. In these hard times, it is imperative that we work together, and Bank of America has joined us in our work to establish a community that helps struggling neighbors make positive life changes."

Including this year's awardees, Bank of America's *Neighborhood Excellence Initiative* has recognized, nurtured and rewarded more than 400 organizations and over 2,000 individuals. In 2008, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will commit \$20 million globally to the initiative, which operates in 45 of the bank's major markets, bringing the total commitment under the program to more than \$90 million by the end of this year. "Bank of America has long held the belief that a healthy community is a healthy place to do business, and we are committed to creating real impact in the Greater Washington community," said William Couper, Mid-Atlantic President at Bank of America. "The Neighborhood Excellence Initiative underscores our belief that investing in leadership is a sound practice, whether building the capacity of our nonprofit organizations, developing current and emerging community leaders, or preparing our youth for the future."

Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy

Building on a long-standing tradition of investing in the communities it serves, Bank of America will embark in 2009 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 2007, making the bank the most generous financial institution in the world and the second largest donor of all U.S. corporations in cash contributions. **For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, please visit www.bankofamerica.com/foundation.**