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SOUTHWEST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SELECTED AS EASTER SEALS' PHOENIX AFFILIATE

Arizona's Largest Community-based Children's and Family Service Organization Joins Forces with National Non-profit Service Provider for People with Disabilities

PHOENIX (July 12, 2007) – Southwest Human Development (www.swhd.org), Arizona's largest provider of services for young children and families, and parent organization to the Arizona Institute for Early Childhood Development, today announces its partnership with Easter Seals. Easter Seals, the leading national non-profit service provider for people with disabilities, selected Phoenix-based Southwest Human Development as its Phoenix-area affiliate. The new association allows both groups to better provide children with disabilities, and their families, with the knowledge and tools needed to reach their full potential and live healthy, productive lives.

"We are honored to have been selected as Easter Seals' exclusive affiliate organization in the Phoenix-metropolitan area," said Ginger Ward, Southwest Human Development CEO. "Although we have offered disabilities' services to our constituents over the last 25 years, this association with Easter Seals allows us to expand our early intervention, assistive technology and other disabilities' programs, and serve the community even more effectively."

Through this partnership, Southwest Human Development now has access to new resources, expertise and networks for providing cutting-edge services for those with disabilities. As such, the organization was recently awarded a \$35,000 grant from the CVS/Caremark Charitable Trust for the creation of Arizona's most comprehensive multi-disciplinary assessment program to help improve outcomes for young children who have problems with feeding and eating. The grant is one of 10 gifts, totaling \$350,000, which the CVS/Caremark Charitable Trust made to Easter Seals affiliates in select markets throughout the country as part of CVS/Caremark's national signature program, CVS All Kids Can™.

For more than 25 years, Southwest Human Development has reached out to children and families in Arizona with comprehensive and innovative early childhood services. The non-profit organization has a mission to create a positive future for all young children, and currently operates more than 40 public and private programs in disabilities, child health and welfare, training and education, Head Start and the Arizona Institute for Early Childhood Development.

Easter Seals' mission is to provide exceptional services to ensure that people with disabilities or other special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play. The organization has been helping families for more than 85 years, and today, assists more than one million individuals annually at more than 550 Easter Seals sites across the country. The organization expects to serve more than 5 million people with disabilities and their families by 2010.

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*Southwest Human Development Joins Easter Seals
Add One*

“We are thrilled to introduce Southwest Human Development to Easter Seals’ family of 84 affiliates across the United States, Puerto Rico and Australia,” said James E. Williams, Jr., president and chief executive officer, Easter Seals. “We share a powerful mission, and together, have the opportunity to positively impact many more children and families as we develop and strengthen our relationship.”

About Easter Seals

Easter Seals is the leading non-profit provider of services for individuals with autism, developmental disabilities, physical and mental disabilities, and other special needs. For more than 85 years, Easter Seals has been offering help and hope to children and adults living with disabilities, and to the families who love them.

Through therapy, training, education and support services, Easter Seals creates life-changing solutions so that people with disabilities can live, learn, work and play in their communities. Support children and adults with disabilities at www.easterseals.com.

About Southwest Human Development and Arizona Institute for Early Childhood Development

Founded in 1981 as a non-profit organization, Southwest Human Development provides comprehensive services for young children and their families in several areas: child health and welfare, disabilities, Head Start and professional training. Now serving 50,000 children and families each year, Southwest Human Development is the state’s largest community-based organization of its type.

As scientific research continued to confirm the importance of impacting children during their earliest years, Southwest Human Development founded the **Arizona Institute for Early Childhood Development** in 2004. The Institute was created with the mission to expand research-based early development programs to help children reach their full potential, and today, the Institute focuses on three core areas: early literacy, infant mental health and the Birth to Five Helpline.

For more information about Southwest Human Development or the Arizona Institute for Early Childhood Development, please call (602) 266-5976 or visit www.swhd.org.

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