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SOUTHWEST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT NAMED ONE OF VALLEY'S BEST PLACES TO WORK FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Valley's Largest Organization Serving Young Children Recognized for Its Positive Work Environment

PHOENIX (December 6, 2009) – For the third consecutive year, Southwest Human Development has been named one of the Best Places to Work in the Valley through the *Phoenix Business Journal* and BestCompaniesAZ annual awards presentation that took place on December 2, 2010. This year, Southwest Human Development placed third in the large business category, thanks to the voting and survey data provided by employees of the statewide agency serving children ages birth to five.

“Our employees work hard every day to bring valuable services to Arizona’s children and I can’t thank them enough for all that they do at Southwest Human Development,” said Ginger Ward, founder and CEO of Southwest Human Development. “We gladly accept the Best Places to Work award on behalf of our more than 600 employees and applaud their commitment to early childhood development.”

As the state’s largest provider of services for children and families, Southwest Human Development offers its employees the chance to take part in changing lives and impacting thousands of individuals. This growing non-profit provides challenging career opportunities as well as an environment where associates are encouraged to learn, collaborate and engage in activities that further both their personal and professional development.

The Best Places to Work award, which was established in 2003, recognizes Arizona companies whose employees rank their respective companies as being the best place to work via a third-party administered survey. The survey covers various parts of employee life, including workplace environment, leadership direction, company culture and management practices. Southwest Human Development was recognized, in part, for their comprehensive benefits plan, 401k retirement plan and ongoing personal and professional growth opportunities.

For more information on employment opportunities at Southwest Human Development, please call (602) 266-5976 or visit www.swhd.org.

About Southwest Human Development

Founded in 1981 as a non-profit organization, Southwest Human Development provides comprehensive services for young children and their families in several areas: disabilities, child health and welfare, Head Start, early literacy and professional training. Now serving 135,000 children and families each year, Southwest Human Development is the state's largest community-based organization of its type. In 2007, Southwest Human Development became the official Phoenix-area affiliate of Easter Seals. Easter Seals Southwest Human Development provides services to children and adults with disabilities and other special needs, and support to their families. For more information, visit www.swhd.org.

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