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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP  
HONORS LEADERSHIP ANNE ARUNDEL'S 2009 GRADUATES**

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 2, 2009) – Nearly 60 graduates of Leadership Anne Arundel's (LAA) Executive Leadership Series (ELS), Flagship Program and Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) were honored at LAA's Tribute to Community Leadership on Tuesday, June 30 at the Chesapeake Arts Center in Brooklyn Park. The theme for the program year was "Strengthening Our Community, Embracing Change." (*Editor's Note: List of graduates is attached*).

Tribute to Community Leadership is Leadership Anne Arundel's signature event that celebrates the work of its program participants. The event began at 5 p.m. with a VIP reception in the green room adjacent to the Chesapeake Arts Center's main auditorium. The reception featured signature dishes from Anne Arundel County restaurants and caterers who donated their services for the 200 attendees.

The graduation ceremony was held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Chesapeake Arts Center's main auditorium. Approximately 250 individuals attended the formal graduation ceremony that recognized each graduate of Leadership Anne Arundel's three programs.

Three special awards were presented during the graduation ceremony: the Neighborhood Leadership Academy Community Champion Award, the Patrick M. Lee, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, and the LAA Distinguished Graduate Award.

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The Neighborhood Leadership Academy Community Champion Award, which provides a full scholarship to LAA's Flagship Program to a graduate of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy, was presented to Ella Sembly of ARINC. Ella has participated in charitable activities at ARINC, helped with the creation of a new building at her church, and also volunteers with Girls Scouts of America and Adopt a Highway. Her core belief is to serve by doing whatever it takes.

The Patrick M. Lee, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Leadership Anne Arundel, which honors a person who has given tirelessly of his or her time and expertise to LAA this year, was presented to Maggie Griffin, M&T Bank Assistant Vice President and Flagship 2005 graduate. Maggie was chair of LAA's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala and Homecoming, chair of the Tribute to Community Leadership, and has served as chair of LAA's Marketing Committee for the past three years. Maggie serves on LAA's Board of Directors and volunteers to speak on behalf of LAA at community events, program sessions and council hearings.

The LAA Distinguished Graduate Award was awarded to two exceptional LAA graduates who have made significant contributions for the betterment of the community: Erwin Abrams, Executive Director of the Hospice of the Chesapeake, and Barbara Huston, President and CEO of Partners in Care, Inc. Both individuals have given tirelessly of themselves to improve the lives of people in the community, as well as serving as role models for others who volunteer for nonprofits in Anne Arundel County.

LAA is supported throughout the year by leadership partners who provide financial and in kind contributions to ensure the continued success of the organization. The Leadership Partners include Anne Arundel Community College; Anne Arundel Medical Center; Booz Allen Hamilton; Capital Gazette Newspapers; Dillon's Bus Service, Inc.; M&T Bank; Northrop Grumman; TeleCommunication Systems, Inc.; Verizon; and Westfield Annapolis.

The Tribute to Community Leadership was made possible by contributions and in kind donations from many companies and individuals who sponsored the event. Title sponsor of the event was TeleCommunication Systems, Inc. The Board of Directors

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Circle included Anne Arundel Community College, Comcast, Art Ebersberger, Hank Gundlach – Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, and Westfield Annapolis. The President's Circle included BB&T, Chesapeake Arts Center, and Hospice of the Chesapeake. The Executive Committee Circle was comprised of The Columbia Bank and Verizon. The Committee Chair's Circle included Pam Beidle/Nationwide Insurance; Booz Allen Hamilton; Daly Computers; Frank Gumpert of Annapolis; Fordham Brewing Company; Homestead Gardens; Hyatt & Weber, P.A.; Klos, Lourie & Leahy, P.A.; Leadership Anne Arundel staff; M&T Bank; Opportunity Builders, Inc.; Senator Ed Reilly – Legislative District 33; and Volunteer Center of Anne Arundel County. The Emerging Leaders Circle included Aelios Group, Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank, and Kelly Services.

Restaurants and caterers who donated their signature dishes for the event included Acqua Lounge, Hilton BWI Airport; Big Fish Grille; El Salto Mexican Restaurant; Roundz Catering; Saucy Salamander, Sheraton Annapolis Hotel; Terry's Place; and West End Grill.

The vision of Leadership Anne Arundel is to develop and nurture community trustees who improve the quality of life in Anne Arundel County by convening diverse stakeholders, bridging their divides, and facilitating resolutions for the common good. Leadership Anne Arundel's mission is to provide people of diverse backgrounds with the education, resources and networks necessary to become successful proactive leaders.

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Executive Leadership Series Graduates

Donna Addkison, Sun Consulting, LLC

John Bathon, ARINC, Inc.

Tim Berzins, Ocean's Edge

John Gower, ARINC, Inc.

Jennifer Kyle, Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC)

Elizabeth Martin, Langton Green, Inc.

Tim Martin, Commworx, LLC

Lois Miller, Anne Arundel County Public Library Foundation

April Nyman, Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, Inc.

Richard Springer, BB&T

Adam Tracey, Westfield Annapolis

Steve Wolverton, Tailored Access, LLC

### Flagship Program Graduates

Monica Alvarado, USi, An AT&T Company

Nestor Bleech, M&T Bank

Maria Broadbent, City of Annapolis

Anne Brooks, On Purpose LIFE!

Joseph Budge, Budge Consulting

Linda Carter-Ferrier, Anne Arundel County Chapter, Autism Society of America

Tim Cochran, TeleCommunication Systems, Inc.

Peter Crilly, Peter B. Crilly and Associates, LTD

Robert Crosby, Baltimore Gas & Electric Company

De'Borah Dent, He Delivers International, Inc.

Elizabeth Durkee, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

Stephen Frantzich, U.S. Naval Academy

Amanda Gibson, Water Stewardship, Inc.

Stephanie Kastle, Kastle Communications, LLC

Kip Kunsman, Anne Arundel Community College

Heather Lentz, Constellation Energy Group

Bryan LePage, The Columbia Bank

Rob Levit, Creating Communities

William Lins, Maryland Aviation Administration

Nancy Luttrell, Anne Arundel Medical Center

Joshua Marks, PNC Bank, N.A.

Heather McColl, Annapolis Regional Transportation Management Association

Robert McConnell, BB&T

Michael McHale, Hospice of the Chesapeake

Rosimar Melendez, United Way of Central Maryland

Mark Millsbaugh, Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services  
John Patrick Murray, Toal, Griffith, Ayers & Kullman, LLC  
Kathleen Nieberding, Leadership Anne Arundel  
Kristi Pappas, Johns Hopkins HealthCare LLC  
Marlen Ramirez, Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Fran Schmidt, Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce  
Cynthia Shay, Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger & Hollander, LLC  
Theil Theil, Sunrise Senior Living of Annapolis  
Gretchen Tomkies, Anne Arundel Community College  
Christopher Trumbauer, West/Rhode Riverkeeper

Neighborhood Leadership Academy Graduates

Timothy Anderson, Luckies Stores  
Doris Durrett, Freetown Elementary  
Ida B. Evans, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)  
Roslyn Finnie, Community Volunteer  
Shelly Galloway, Food Link  
Sherry J. Hanks, Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank  
Alli Holstrom, Leadership Anne Arundel  
Linda Lamon, Anne Arundel County Public Schools  
Julio Martinez, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)  
Les McCollum, FedEx  
Ella Sembly, ARINC, Inc.  
Pat Slayton, Patricia Slayton and Associates