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20TH ANNUAL BLOSSOM GALA

(CHICAGO – May 8, 2007) – Orchard Village hosted its 20th Annual Blossom Gala Auction Dinner Dance on Saturday, May 5, at the Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling. The event produced the largest revenue ever at \$345,000, with an increase of \$100,000 from last year. Bruce Wolf of NBC 5 Chicago entertained attendees as the EMCEE for the evening. Proceeds benefited Orchard Village, a Skokie-based not-for-profit organization that supports people with developmental disabilities.

The Blossom Gala kicked off Orchard Village's celebration of its 35th year serving over 300 men, women, and children with developmental disabilities. Major sponsors included Walgreens, Wal-Mart, American Airlines, The Westin, Home Depot, Best Buy, Funjet and Mudd Advertising. One highlight of the evening came during the live auction as the room came alive with a bidding war over transportation for six people on a private jet to New York City plus two nights at the Waldorf Astoria. The package sold for an amazing \$13,000!

Bob Thrush, President of Rowe Marketing Industrial Group, was honored with the Advocacy Leadership Award for his outstanding service and dedication to the men, women and children of Orchard Village. Rob Mudd, President, Agency Division, of Mudd Advertising, was also honored as the evening's Honorary Chairperson. Mudd Advertising created and presented an emotional video that documented the shopping and purchase of new furniture for Orchard Village's Brummel and Henley Street homes, as well as the agency's goals to improve other homes through the Help Make a House a Home Appeal.

Not only was the event a celebration of the Blossom Gala's 20th year, it also kicked off the organization's 35th year of serving people with developmental disabilities. Orchard Village decided to update its image in honor of its 35th year, and a new, more youthful logo was revealed by Executive Director, Jim Vail. Even more exciting than a new logo was the announcement that Orchard Village will be opening a school this fall that will help transition high school students in Special Education programs into life after school.

For more information on the 20th Annual Orchard Village Blossom Gala or Orchard Village, contact Erika Vavrik at (847) 967-1800, ext. 133, or visit www.orchardvillage.org.

About Orchard Village - Orchard Village is a not-for-profit organization supporting over 300 men, women and children with developmental disabilities. Without the generous giving of its supporters, Orchard Village would not be able to offer its residential, vocational, seniors' day program, in-home respite care or specialized services.

The non-profit was founded 35 years ago by a group of parents who realized their children were in need of services that recognized their potential, nurtured their needs and helped them achieve their goals in life. The

organization's primary focus is based upon person-centered planning. The use of one-on-one interviews and 25 personal outcome measures ensures that every client controls his or her own destiny.

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