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ORCHARD VILLAGE RECEIVES HIGHEST ACCREDITATION

(CHICAGO – July 5, 2007) – Orchard Village, a Skokie-based organization, recently received a 4-Year Accreditation from The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). The accreditation, which is the highest that an organization can receive, places Orchard Village in the top tier of social service agencies serving people with developmental disabilities.

The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) is an independent accreditation agency that evaluates organizations serving people with disabilities throughout the United States. Orchard Village previously held a three-year accreditation from CQL, but elected to be assessed this time by the newly developed Quality Measures 2005™ standards for a four-year accreditation partnership. CQL spent three full days with Orchard Village from June 26th through June 28th. They meticulously evaluated aspects of the agency including basic assurances, shared values of Orchard Village, dignity and respect toward people served, staff development, community relations, record-keeping, personal outcomes, staff development, safety of all environments, confidentiality, due process procedures, and leadership development. CQL was especially impressed by Orchard Village's commitment to treating all of the people it supports with dignity and respect. They commended the organization for its commitment to developing creative ways to support people's goals, which in turn helps facilitate the community integration of people with disabilities, development of social capital, and ability to positively impact the neighborhoods in which the people who we support live and work.

Approximately 250 organizations throughout the nation are accredited independently by CQL. Orchard Village is among only 30 that have earned the distinction of a four-year accreditation from CQL.

Orchard Village extends sincere thanks to the Village of Skokie and other communities that serve as home to people who have disabilities and are served by Orchard Village. Their long-standing support helps people of all abilities lead enriched lives and build relationships in their neighborhoods and workplaces. For more information on 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 disabilities. The organization 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. Orchard Village's primary focus is based upon person-centered planning. The use of one-on-one interviews and 21 personal outcome measures ensures that every person controls his or her own destiny.

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