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Orchard Village hits the runway

(SKOKIE – September 12, 2007) There was nothing but glitz and glamour on Saturday, September 8, at the Orchard Village Auxiliary's Fall Fantasy Luncheon and Fashion Show. The enchanting event was held at Monastero's in Chicago and benefited Orchard Village, a Skokie-based not-for-profit that supports people with developmental disabilities. Formal fashions were provided by Robin Elliott in Morton Grove, and elegant furs were provided by Hana K of Lake Forest.

Over 150 guests attended the luncheon and fashion show, which featured raffles for prizes ranging from spa gifts to airline tickets from long-time supporter, American Airlines. The fashion show impressed guests with chic gowns and an astounding lynx coat by Hana K valued at \$60,000.

The Auxiliary honored two worthy recipients during an awards presentation. Tim Bobrowski, Orchard Village's Director of Vocational Services and Orchard Academy, was honored with the Jeannie Johnson Hirsch Award for his leadership, vision and contribution to children with disabilities. Bobrowski initiated the launch of Orchard Academy, the second school of its kind in Illinois for 5th year high school students in special education. The school provides an array of services focusing on life development, post-secondary educational opportunities, and vocational training that lead to successful competitive employment and provide a smooth transition from high school to adult life. The Corporate Community Advocacy Award was presented to Borders Books and Music of Wilmette in honor of their continued support of Orchard Village. Borders invites the Auxiliary members to gift wrap books on holidays and special occasions so they can spread the word about Orchard Village.

The Fall Fantasy raised nearly \$5,000 for the individuals supported by Orchard Village.

About Orchard Village – Orchard Village is a not-for-profit organization that has been supporting people with disabilities for 35 years. 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.

Orchard Village provides residential, vocational, intermittent, seniors' day program, specialized services, and in-home respite services to 300 individuals throughout 28 communities in northern Cook County. The most recent addition to Orchard Village is Orchard Academy. The high school provides much needed support for students in special education to develop the vocational, social, and independent living skills necessary to transition successfully into life after high school. For more information about Orchard Village, contact Erika Vavrik at (847) 967-1800 ext. 133, or visit www.orchardvillage.org.