



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **LANO Announces Seal of Excellence Recipients** *Ten Louisiana Nonprofits Complete the Voluntary Certification Program*

**Baton Rouge, LA (October 25, 2006)** – Ten Louisiana nonprofits successfully completed the Louisiana Standards for Excellence Voluntary Certification Program and were awarded the LANO *Seal of Excellence* on October 25, 2006. The addition of these ten certified organizations brings the total number of Louisiana Standards for Excellence certified nonprofits to 46.

The Louisiana Standards for Excellence program aims to promote the public's trust in nonprofit organizations. The newly certified organizations underwent an intensive peer review process, an extensive review of operations and approval by an independent Standards Compliance Committee.

According to Melissa S. Flournoy, Ph.D., President and CEO of LANO, "Demonstrating sound nonprofit management means more today for Louisiana's nonprofits than at any other time in our state's history. Following the devastation of two hurricanes last year and the public's desire to help rebuild Louisiana, donors want to know that they are supporting organizations that they can trust to behave ethically. LANO encourages all Louisiana nonprofits to participate in the Standards for Excellence program."

The ten new recipients of the LANO Seal of Excellence are:

- **Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area (Baton Rouge)**
- ARCO (Monroe)
- Capital Area United Way (Baton Rouge)
- Families Helping Families (Monroe)
- Health Care Centers in Schools (Baton Rouge)
- Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic (Lafayette)
- The Center for Families (Shreveport)
- United Methodist Hope Ministries, Inc. (Baton Rouge)
- United Way of St. Charles (Luling)
- Volunteer! Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge)

#### **About the Louisiana Standards for Excellence**

The Louisiana Standards for Excellence program sets benchmarks beyond the minimum legal requirements of how nonprofits should operate. It covers eight areas of nonprofit operations: mission and program, governing board, conflicts of interest, human resources, financial and legal accountability, openness and disclosure, fundraising and public policy and affairs.

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**About the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations**

The Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO) is a statewide network of nonprofits, foundations and individuals representing every region of our state. They are dedicated to the vision of strong, accountable, efficiently-run nonprofits fulfilling every need in Louisiana. LANO has over 1000 members and branches in five regions. Our mission is to strengthen, promote and build the capacity of Louisiana's nonprofit sector through education, advocacy and member services.

For more information about the Louisiana Standards for Excellence Program and the Voluntary Nonprofit Certification process, call LANO at 225-343-5266 or visit their website at [www.lano.org](http://www.lano.org).

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