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UNITED WAYS OF ONTARIO HONOURED WITH ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION 25th ANNIVERSARY GREAT GRANTS AWARD

Toronto, November 2, 2007 – United Ways of Ontario (UWO) was honoured for the impact it has made in communities across the province at the Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) 25th Anniversary Great Grants Awards on November 1, 2007. Held at the MaRS Centre in Toronto, the evening highlighted the achievements of 25 not-for-profit organizations from the more than ten thousand groups that received OTF funding over the past 25 years. These organizations have exemplified excellence, innovation and leadership in their community and volunteer work.

“2007 marks the 25th anniversary of grantmaking for OTF and we are delighted to celebrate the success of United Ways of Ontario and their role in building healthy and vibrant communities across the province,” said Helen Burstyn, Chair, OTF Board of Directors.

Early in its history, OTF recognized that the UWO and the Foundation were inextricably linked in every community. A strong United Way movement in the province greatly complemented OTF's goals of building healthy and vibrant communities. In 1983, OTF made a substantial grant of \$6,036,072 over five years to UWO, a network of all United Ways in the province, to help strengthen technological and administrative capacities. The grant also provided funding that created individual stabilization funds for each local United Way in the province.

The partnership between United Ways of Ontario and OTF has remained one of the most significant the Foundation has ever formed. UWO continues to be a vital force of strength and support to the voluntary sector all across the province.

“We are honoured that the Ontario Trillium Foundation selected United Ways of Ontario to receive this special award on its silver anniversary,” said Gayle Metson, Chair of the United Ways of Ontario Council and Regional Vice Chair for Ontario at United Way of Canada. “We share OTF's goal of building healthy, vibrant communities and salute them for their 25 dedicated years of strengthening Ontario communities.”

Over 25 years, there are few not-for-profit organizations in the province that OTF has not touched and few communities where its support has not made a difference.

The Government of Ontario had the vision to create OTF 25 years ago; to support the Foundation's growth over time; and to recognize its importance recently with an additional \$20 million in annual funding that will enable the Foundation to do even more when it comes to building healthy and vibrant communities.

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