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***Joyce Johnson Wins 2007
Stettinius Award for Nonprofit Leadership***

(RICHMOND, VA) Virginia Heroes Incorporated Program Director Joyce C. Johnson has been named a recipient of the 2007 Stettinius Award for Nonprofit Leadership. The award was announced recently by The Community Foundation, which administers the award. Johnson was one of three outstanding professionals honored for providing effective organizational leadership within the charitable sector, according to the Foundation. As part of the award, she received a grant of \$10,000 to pursue professional development activities. The award will be formally announced at The Community Foundation's Especially for Nonprofits Fall Conference on September 27.

Johnson, a career educator, taught in the Richmond Public Schools for 33 years. In retirement, she became program director of Virginia Heroes Incorporated. Last year, she helped to transform the mentoring program at Chandler Middle School by overseeing the addition of seventh graders and creating a new curriculum that stressed violence prevention and gang resistance. Her work was instrumental in Virginia Heroes being named 2006 Program of the Year by the Virginia Mentoring Partnership. Johnson will use her award to participate in academic and civic leadership programs in Richmond and to comparatively investigate mentoring practices in the U.S. and abroad.

This Stettinius Awards program is supported by The Community Foundation's unrestricted funds and the Stettinius Fund for Nonprofit Leadership, which was established by Cadmus Communications Corporation on the occasion of Wallace Stettinius' retirement from the Cadmus Board of Directors. Stettinius is a former chairman of The Community Foundation.

Since its founding by Arthur Ashe in 1990, Virginia Heroes has provided mentors and role models to students in Richmond city middle schools. Currently, we are engaged in an intensive intervention at Chandler Middle School in the Highland Park neighborhood in close concert with the school's administration. The goal is to reinforce the school's efforts to improve academic achievement using our time-tested techniques to boost student self-esteem, promote wise life choices, and instill positive values. This is done by putting the students in long-term relationships with mentors and exposing them to role models at the annual Celebration of Heroes.