



Contacts: Darolyn Gray, Executive Director, Angel Foundation
(612) 554-1314, dgray@MnAngel.org

Brian Belmont, Belmont Partners Public Relations
(952) 233-0428, brian@bellmontpartners.com

Angel Foundation Recognizes Five Shining Stars who Support Cancer Survivors and their Families

Sixth-annual Star Award recipients are available for interviews prior to Feb. 2nd event

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (December 17, 2007) — From a deaf breast cancer survivor doing extraordinary advocacy work in the deaf cancer and deaf hospice communities, to a brain tumor survivor who has used humor to help raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the American Brain Tumor Association’s research, the recipients of Angel Foundation’s 2008 Star Awards are shining examples of care, compassion and support.

Angel Foundation, founded in 2001, helps hundreds of Minnesota families cope with the financial stress and emotional impact of cancer. Each year through its Star Awards, the organization recognizes and honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the health and wellness of cancer survivors and their families.

What: Angel Foundation’s Star Awards, honoring five outstanding individuals

When: Saturday, February 2, 2008. Reception and silent auction at 6:00 p.m. Dinner, awards presentation and entertainment at 7:30 p.m., after-party at 9:30 p.m.

Where: The Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

The 2008 Star Award recipients include:

★ Advocacy Award —Anita Buel—“She Hears With Her Heart”

Anita Buel is a 25-year breast cancer survivor, a founding member of the “The Pink Deafies” breast cancer support group, Director of the Deaf Community Health Worker Project, and active with the deaf hospice community. Anita was first diagnosed as mentally retarded and sent to a special school before her teachers realized she was deaf. From candy striper to hospice volunteer, she has been dedicated to improving the lives of deaf people. Anita has been involved in education for 23 years and continues to be a strong advocate for breast cancer prevention. She is currently working on a documentary film regarding deaf breast cancer survivors, and also helped organize Angel Foundation’s first Deaf Women’s Breast Health Conference which attracted over 70 deaf women.

★ Research and Education Award—Kristin Stinar Geer

Kristin Stinar Geer founded the CanCurables Foundation shortly after she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Kristin is an Emmy Award-winning investigative reporter who spent the past six years at KSTP-TV. During her career, she’s been repeatedly recognized for her work. In addition to three Emmy Awards, she has also been honored with two regional Edward R. Murrow Awards and two Society of Professional Journalists Investigative Awards, including first place

for “Cancer Cure or Con?” Kristin recently left KSTP to further her mission to raise money to help find a cure for ovarian cancer.

★ **Corporate Caring Award—Oreck Corporation, Tom Bloom**

Tom Bloom’s father passed away from cancer last year and was a patient at MOHPA’s Maplewood Cancer Center. Tom, a Senior Manager at Oreck Corporation, was so impressed with his father’s care that he wanted to give back. Tom supports Angel Foundation by having quarterly “Oreck Parties” at all Twin Cities metro locations to raise funds for the foundation’s financial assistance program. The family-run Oreck Company invented the Oreck vacuum, and now to show its support for Susan G. Komen for the Cure in the fight against breast cancer, created two models for the Clean for the Cure® promotion. For each of these special edition vacuum cleaners purchased, Oreck donates \$50-\$70 to Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

★ **Humanitarian Award – DeeDee Jonrowe**

DeeDee Jonrowe is the foremost female dog musher competing in the world today. She has both the fastest time of any woman in the history of the Iditarod and thirteen top ten finishes in her career. Her highly publicized battle with breast cancer that she began in 2002 has seen her become a tireless fundraiser. In 2003 she became an honorary chairperson for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, assisting the organization in its fundraising efforts as well. DeeDee’s humanitarian efforts have been well-documented, being given the YWCA’s “Alaska Woman of Achievement of Award,” the most inspirational musher award, and even as the spokesperson for the National Girl Scouts Council and Winter Special Olympics. She is a published author, and is currently working on another book profiling her comeback from cancer to race again.

★ **Spirit Award -- Joelle Syverson**

Joelle Syverson is a cancer survivor who has been instrumental in raising awareness and funds for brain tumor research. In April 2007 she experienced a recurrence of her tumor, which resulted in a third brain surgery. She created an event called “Humor to Fight the Tumor,” which has raised nearly \$500,000 in just three years and has become one of the American Brain Tumor Association’s largest fundraisers.

ABOUT THE STAR AWARDS CEREMONY

In addition to the awards, the evening includes a reception, silent auction, dinner, entertainment, and an after-party. Kristin Stinar Geer is Master of Ceremonies, and Minnesota vocalist Michelle Marie will perform with local musicians.

ABOUT ANGEL FOUNDATION

Angel Foundation (formerly Minnesota Oncology Hematology Foundation) was founded in 2001 as a charitable organization working to fulfill unmet non-medical needs of cancer patients and their families. Angel Foundation is a strength-based, patient-focused non-profit organization dedicated to its mission to *improve the quality of life throughout the cancer experience*. While many organizations raise funds for cancer research, Angel Foundation focuses on the personal day to day needs and necessities of cancer patients. During the past six years, Angel has blossomed into a vital community resource serving hundreds of patients providing hope and stability through education, support, and financial assistance.

MEDIA ONLY: Media is invited to attend the event. The award recipients and Angel Foundation’s Darolyn Gray are available for interviews prior to the Star Awards event. To set up an interview, please contact Brian Belmont at Belmont Partners Public Relations at (952) 233-0428 or info@bellmontpartners.com or Darolyn Gray at (612) 554-1314 or dgray@MnAngel.org.