



For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:

Jane Ferguson, Director
Communications and External Relations
480.556.7125 (office) • 480.252.0008 (PDA)
jferguson@pipertrust.org

Piper Trust Names Five 2007 Piper Fellows
Sabbaticals for Nonprofit Leaders Provide Professional Development, Renewal

SCOTTSDALE, AZ (December 10, 2007)—The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust today awarded Piper Fellowships to five exemplary nonprofit leaders, who will participate in self-designed sabbaticals for professional development and renewal.

The 2007 Piper Fellows are Blase Bova, Society of St. Vincent de Paul; Lisa Glow, Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center; Theresa Leon, Friendly House; Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center; and Kurt Sheppard, Valle del Sol, Inc.

(Awardee contact information and bios follow. High-resolution photographs available online

<http://pipertrust.org/news/piperpeople2007fellows.aspx>)

“The pressures of high-impact jobs in the nonprofit world are not unlike the stresses and demands of other key leadership roles in the public and private sectors,” said Judy Jolley Mohraz, president and CEO of the Piper Trust. “Piper Fellowships allow us to acknowledge the requirements of nonprofit leadership and provide access to new thinking, new models and the most current resources on social enterprise available.”

The Piper Fellowships, each providing up to \$30,000, are intended to give professionals in the nonprofit field a minimum of one month to a maximum of two months work-release time plus expenses for study and travel. The sabbatical experiences have ranged from seminars at leading universities to visits to nationwide best-practice sites to leadership development programs and personal coaching.

(more)

Since 2001, the Piper Fellows program has funded 28 nonprofit executive sabbaticals.

In addition to providing a maximum of five fellowships annually, Piper Trust awards up to \$10,000 to match new or increased professional development for each awardee organization's staff. "Staff development funding has enabled staff, who have held down the fort while the executive is absent, to build skills, acquire knowledge and gain insights as a team," said Mohraz.

A committee of three community leaders, including one Piper Fellow from the previous year's class, made fellow recommendations from among 13 applications. Judges this year were Don Henninger, publisher, The Business Journal of Phoenix; John Murphy, president and CEO, Flinn Foundation; and 2006 Piper Fellow Marsha Porter, Executive Director, Crisis Nursery. Piper Trust names a new selection committee for each round of fellows.

For more information about the Piper Fellows program or details about any of the recipients, visit the Leadership Development section of the website, www.pipertrust.org.

###

About Piper Trust:

A private foundation, The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust is dedicated to honoring Virginia Galvin Piper's philanthropic commitment to changing lives and strengthening community in Maricopa County (Arizona). By investing in nonprofits and encouraging strategic planning for the future, Piper Trust strives to make Maricopa County a stronger, more nurturing and vibrant community.

Since it began awarding grants in 2000, Piper Trust has invested almost \$213 million in local nonprofits and programs. The Trust reported total grants paid of \$27.4 million in fiscal year 2007 (ending March 31). Piper Trust focuses on healthcare and medical research, children, older adults, arts and culture, education and religious organizations.

For more information, visit www.pipertrust.org.