



***Students get it. Communities want it.
CHOICES keeps teens into school!***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Bank of America Charitable Foundation Awards CHOICES Education Group Its Largest Donation Ever
For Teen Dropout Prevention Program**

\$125,000 donation will help 30,000 teens nationwide

SEATTLE, WA—January 31, 2008—The CHOICES Education Group, a Seattle-based non-profit, announced today it has received a \$125,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation—the largest donation CHOICES Education Group has received since its inception in 1985. Using bank employees as volunteer presenters, the grant will be used to deliver the CHOICES program to more than 30,000 middle school students nationwide.

“Every school day 7,000 students become dropouts. This is the eighth consecutive year Bank of America has supported CHOICES. The leadership from Bank of America in committing foundation resources to stem this appalling statistic is a powerful example for others to follow,” said Leo Muller, Executive Director of the national not-for-profit. “CHOICES helps kids at a crucial point in their lives, when they are old enough to think realistically about their future but are young enough to still do something about it.”

“The Bank of America Charitable Foundation shares a commitment with CHOICES to help improve opportunities for teens and young adults in our communities,” said Andrew Plepler, president, Bank of America Charitable Foundation. “We hope that this program continues to serve as a catalyst for change in the neighborhoods we serve. We are proud to lend our continued support of CHOICES.”

CHOICES is an interactive decision-making workshop that empowers teens to achieve academic success in pursuit of their career and life aspirations. In two hour-long sessions, business and community volunteers take students through real-world exercises on academic self-discipline, time and money management and goal setting.

About The CHOICES Education Group

The CHOICES Education Group is an independent 501c (3) nonprofit social enterprise started in 1985 with initial funding from Pacific Northwest Bell (now Qwest Communications). CHOICES has been delivered to more than 5 million students since 1985. The CHOICES workshop is currently being delivered to approximately 200,000 students per year in 47 states in the U.S., four provinces in Canada and one state in Australia. More information about CHOICES is available at www.choices.org or by calling 1-888-CHOICES (1-888-246-4237).

Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy

Building on a long-standing tradition of investing in the communities it serves, Bank of America is in its fourth year of achieving an unprecedented 10-year goal to donate \$1.5 billion to nonprofit organizations engaged in improving the health and vitality of their neighborhoods. Funded by Bank of America, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will give more than \$225 million in 2008, making the bank the most generous financial institution in the world and the second largest donor of all U.S. corporations in cash contributions. Bank of America approaches giving through a national strategy called "neighborhood excellence" under which it works with local leaders to identify and meet the most pressing needs of individual communities. Through Team Bank of America, bank associate volunteers contributed more than 650,000 hours in 2007 to enhance the quality of life in their communities nationwide. For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, please visit www.bankofamerica.com/foundation.

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