



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THE CURTIS GROUP BECOMES ONLY
VIRGINIA-BASED MEMBER OF GIVING INSTITUTE**

(Glenview IL) January 28, 2008 -- Giving Institute: Leading Consultants to Non-Profits (formerly American Association of Fund Raising Consultants) is pleased to announce that The Curtis Group, based in Virginia Beach, has successfully achieved qualification.

By meeting the rigorous standards of this select national organization, The Curtis Group becomes Giving Institute's only member based in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Giving Institute was founded in 1935 to promote the need for professional and ethical standards of practice, and to influence the creation of laws governing philanthropy. (*See attached Fact Sheet.*)

Giving Institute membership consists of fundraising consulting and service companies that assist not-for-profit organizations. Its 35 members are professionally and geographically diverse, annually raising billions of dollars for and providing invaluable counsel and services to philanthropic institutions.

To become a member of Giving Institute, a firm must meet certain ethical standards as well as undergo an extensive client review process. In addition, once it has become a member of Giving Institute, a member firm must be re-qualified every five years to maintain its membership in good standing.

The Curtis Group, founded in 1989, has worked with more than 70 small to mid-sized nonprofits in Hampton Roads and around the Mid-Atlantic. Services include fundraising feasibility studies, development audits, capital campaign planning and management, campaign marketing, development staffing, board training, and planned giving. Clients have spanned arts and cultural, educational, civic and public affairs, social service, and healthcare organizations.

"We are grateful to our clients for recommending us to the Giving Institute," said Keith Curtis, founder and president of The Curtis Group. "And we are honored to be the only Virginia-based fundraising firm in this groundbreaking organization."

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