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**LOCAL ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS
AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY**

Members of Six Non-Profit Organizations Named Colette Murray Fellows for 2005-2006

SAN DIEGO, CA, February 1, 2005 – The San Diego Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) today announced that individuals from six local non-profit organizations that serve people from culturally and ethnically diverse communities have been selected Colette M. Murray Fellows for 2005-2006. As Murray Fellows, they will receive assistance in building their professional fundraising skills over the next two years through access to the organization's many education resources and the collective professional expertise of its membership.

The Colette M. Murray Fellows Program is an outreach initiative of the AFP San Diego Chapter to encourage diversity within the organization. Initiated in 2003, the program's name recognizes the dedication of Colette M. Murray, J.D., CFRE (Certified Fundraising Executive) to promoting diversity in the development profession. Ms. Murray, a member of the San Diego Chapter of AFP for many years, is CEO of Paschal-Murray Executive Search headquartered in San Diego. Among her many professional accomplishments, she just completed two years as Chair of the International AFP organization.

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“The ultimate goal of the Murray Fellows program is to encourage greater numbers of persons from and/or serving culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds to grow their professional skills in order to better serve their constituencies,” said Donna Johnson, CFRE (Certified Fundraising Executive), CSPG (Certified Specialist in Planned Giving), president of the San Diego Chapter of AFP. “We believe the result will be of significant mutual benefit, with the Fellows assisting AFP to be more responsive to their needs and those of the broader fundraising community, while the Chapter demonstrates AFP’s value to those not yet familiar with the Association.”

The Colette M. Murray Fellows for 2005-2006 are:

- Dave Andrews, Executive Director, Rolling Readers USA
- Sylvia Boaz, Director/Founder, Balletiquette Dance Theatre Company, Inc.
- Jennifer Leighton, Assistant Development & Public Relations Officer, Neighborhood House Association
- Niki Marsden, Administrative Analyst, Christie’s Place
- Alex Sanchez, Development Coordinator, SD Human Dignity Foundation
- Freda Statom, Assistant Director of Development, California Center for the Arts, Escondido

On receiving her scholarship, Jennifer Leighton, Assistant Development & Public Relations Officer, Neighborhood House Association, said, “I’m thrilled to be one of the Colette M. Murray Fellows. Being a member of AFP gives me the opportunity to learn from the educational resources and professional expertise that AFP offers. My goal is to increase my solicitation strategy skills to benefit Neighborhood House Association and the diverse communities we serve.”

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The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) represents more than 26,000 fundraisers in over 170 chapters throughout the world, working to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs. The Association fosters development and growth of fundraising professionals and promotes high ethical standards in the fundraising profession. The AFP San Diego Chapter represents more than 275 charitable fundraisers in the local area. AFP was formerly the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE). To obtain additional information go to the San Diego AFP Chapter website, www.afpsd.org or call toll free (888) 323-7237.