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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 30, 2007

******MEDIA RELEASE******

Durham businesses and organizations honored at Small Business Excellence Awards

DURHAM, NC – Two Durham non-profits and two Durham small businesses were honored at the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce's Annual Small Business Excellence Awards held this morning at the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club. More than 200 people attended the breakfast. Phil Freelon of the Freelon Group served as keynote speaker for the event.

Hamilton Hill and Associate Scaffolding Inc. received honors in the small business category, and Caring House Inc. and the Council for Entrepreneurial Development (CED) were the recipients in the non profit category.

The Chamber has proudly recognized area small businesses at this prestigious awards program since 1986. Small Business Excellence Awards recognize small businesses and non profits for their hard work, creativity, innovation, financial success and community involvement.

About the winners:

Hamilton Hill is known nationally and internationally as having one of the finest selections of international jewelry in the U.S. The company specializes in bringing leading designers from all parts of the world – primarily the US, Western Europe, and South America – to their store in downtown Durham. Their collection of designers is respected by top peer stores in New York and San Francisco.

Associated Scaffolding Inc. is a family run, Durham based company which has been in business and serving its customers since 1947. They have ninety-one full time employees in seven locations. Associated Scaffolding Inc. has been involved in several notable construction projects in Durham including The Streets at Southpoint, Duke University Chapel, the SunTrust building in downtown and the American Tobacco Historic District.

The Caring House Inc. is dedicated to meeting the needs of adult cancer patients served at the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. Caring House Inc.'s facility provides comfortable and affordable housing and a supportive environment to adult outpatients. Caring House Inc. has provided a home for nearly 70,000 nights to over 6,000 guests since opening its doors in 1992.



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The Council for Entrepreneurial Development (CED) was formed in 1984 to identify, enable and promote high growth, high impact entrepreneurial companies and to accelerate the entrepreneurial culture of the Research Triangle and North Carolina. CED holds more than 150 programs and events in which reach more than 8,000 decision makers each year. Hundreds of Durham-based companies have built valuable networks and gained real-time advice through their programs. CED is the largest entrepreneurial support organization in the country; having grown to approximately 4,000 active members representing over 1,100 companies and institutions.

The Chamber would like to thank this year's Gold sponsors Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, RBC Centura Bank, and the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club as well as Silver sponsor CrossComm, Inc. and Bronze sponsor Triangle United Way.

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