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**BUILDING BLOCK FOUNDATION FUND PRESENTS \$160,000
TO FIVE ORANGE COUNTY CHARITIES AT JANUARY 18 GALA**

***Donation brings funds raised since inception to \$450,000
to sustain programs that positively impact at-risk youth in Orange County***

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIF. February 22, 2007 –Some 300 members of Orange County's commercial real estate industry gathered together at a January 18 celebration event to present \$160,000 to five youth-based Orange County charities. Money raised was from Building Block Foundation Fund, where members of the commercial real estate industry provide financial and hands-on support to programs that assist in turning around the lives of at-risk youth in Orange County. Since inception in 2004, Building Block Foundation Fund has raised \$450,000.

Held at the Doubletree Hotel in Santa Ana, the 2nd annual gala event included the presentation of ceremonial checks to **Orangewood's Guardian Scholars** (\$50,000), **KIDWORKS** (\$50,000), **Taller San Jose** (\$25,000), **Project Access** (\$25,000) and the **Newport Sports Museum** (\$10,000). Each charity provides financial and hands-on support that assists in turning around the lives of at-risk children and young adults in Orange County.

"Our board of directors hand-selected each of these programs because of the fine work every one has done throughout Orange County in providing opportunities and much-needed support for children and young adults struggling for a chance to achieve and succeed," said Steve Case, Senior Vice President of Leasing for The Irvine Company and head of the Building Block Foundation Fund Program Committee. "With the ongoing support from the real estate community, we hope to add additional charities to our beneficiary list in the coming year."

To date, **KIDWORKS** has received \$100,000 from Building Block. KIDWORKS develops and operates community centers in Santa Ana neighborhoods providing family support services and engages neighborhood residents in community development activities. Money donated by Building

Block goes directly to fund KIDWORKS after-school programs. KIDWORKS has been a beneficiary of the fund since its inception in late 2004.

Orangewood's Guardian Scholars has received a total of \$50,000 from Building Block. Guardian Scholars is a comprehensive program that supports former foster youth, primarily located in Orange County, in their efforts to gain a university, community college or trade school education.

Project Access, which assists low-income families and seniors in affordable housing to achieve self-sufficiency through access to onsite services in education, health and social services, was announced as a beneficiary in July 2006. It has received \$25,000 from Building Block to date.

Announced as a new beneficiary at the January event, **Taller San Jose** provides undereducated and unskilled young adults the opportunity to finish their education and develop the skills to find a job with a living wage. Also new as a beneficiary is the **Newport Sports Museum**, where money raised supports the Career Choices Mentoring Program, which pairs high school students with sports professionals to discuss the many career options available within the sports industry.

Building Block is comprised of Orange County-based real estate companies committed to working together to create a recurring income stream for worthwhile local charities. Through the success of Building Block's Foot by Foot Contribution Program, companies participating in the program donate a percentage of proceeds from successful real estate activities to Foot by Foot.

"Through the support of Building Block Foundation Fund, our success in the commercial real estate industry directly translates into future success for Orange County's youth," said Jeff Randolph, president of Avalon Financial Group and Donor Advisor of Building Block Foundation Fund. "The more companies and individuals participating in our Foot by Foot Program, the more resources we can bring to bear to help support organizations that are positively impacting the lives of Orange County's youth."

More than 40 individuals/companies/associations are currently involved in Building Block's Foot by Foot program. A partial list of companies includes: Amies Communications, Avalon Financial Group, Inc., Birtcher Development LLC, Buchalter Nemer Fields & Younger, CB Richard Ellis, CT Realty Corporation, Deutsche Bank, Essex Realty Management Inc., First American Title Company, Fremont Investment & Loan, GMAC Commercial Mortgage, Grubb & Ellis, Imperial Hotel Group LLC, LandAmerica Commercial Services, LaSalle Bank, LBA Realty, NAI Capital, Pacific Hospitality Inc, Parker Properties, PM Realty Group, RiverRock Real Estate Group, Sares-Regis Group, Inc, Shea Properties, Spectrum Hotel Group LLC and The Voit Companies.

Organizations such as NAIOP SoCal, IREM Orange County, CREW Orange County, SIOR and Orange County United Way have also granted funds to Building Block during their fundraising efforts. The annual Big Boys Men's Camp is another donator to Building Block Foundation Fund. Camp fees from the annual week-long event provide underprivileged youth in Orange County significant and

invaluable financial resources. In the past two years, Big Boys Men's Camp has given over \$100,000 to local youth mentoring programs.

Building Block Foundation Fund is a fund of the Orange County Community Foundation. For more information, call 949.553.5195 or visit www.buildingblock.org.

For more information about the individual beneficiaries, visit their websites:

KIDWORKS - www.kidworksonline.org.

Orangewood's Guardian Scholars - www.orangewoodfoundation.org/programs_scholars.asp

Project Access - www.project-access.org

Taller San Jose - www.tallersanjose.com

Newport Sports Museum - www.newportsportsmuseum.org

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