

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
November 3, 2005

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## **RHODE ISLAND FREE CLINIC NAMED RI's 2005 OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION**

**With 103,000 Rhode Island Adults Without Health Insurance,  
Rhode Island Free Clinic Helps Those in Need**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Philanthropy Day in RI  
Celebrating the Joy of Giving Nov. 22 Noon Luncheon at RI Convention Center**

**(Providence, RI, November 3, 2005)** In celebration of National Philanthropy Day, the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) has named **Rhode Island Free Clinic**, as **Outstanding Philanthropic Organization of the year**.

**Ms. Lisa Smolski**, Executive Director of Rhode Island Free Clinic, will accept the award at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual National Philanthropy Day luncheon celebration at the Rhode Island Convention Center on November 22 at noon. Rhode Island Free Clinic was nominated by the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

There are 103,000 Rhode Island adults without health insurance. They can't afford regular, primary health care or preventative services. The uninsured are the working poor, holding full- or part-time jobs – in many cases, more than one or two. And according to the National Institute of Medicine, across America between 18,000 and 20,000 of them are dying each year due to their lack of health insurance.

Rhode Island Free Clinic began eight years ago as an idea of co-founders Stephanie Danforth Chafee, RN, MBA and Bruce Becker, MD. Since its doors opened in 1999, the Free Clinic has been helping to make a difference for uninsured adults in Rhode Island. In 2004, Free Clinic volunteers provided over 1,800 free visits to its uninsured patients. In the past year alone, patient visits increased by 42 percent, serving as a concrete reminder of the great (and growing) need for accessible healthcare.

Free Clinic services help with high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, chronic pain, and other non-critical ailments. The Free Clinic receives no public funding. Everything is donated – people's time, medications, equipment and more – to help care for the uninsured who need it most.

A beneficiary of the Free Clinic's services stated, "I've never been on welfare; I raised two children alone and always worked. I fell between the cracks. But thanks to Rhode Island Free Clinic, I'm in good shape."

Today, Rhode Island Free Clinic is the only facility of its type in the state – a welcoming place where adults without health insurance can receive free primary medical care. It's a place where people can give of themselves and their expertise to benefit others. The Free Clinic is staffed by 3.5 paid employees and more than 175 volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, interpreters, students and others. In 2004, these individuals gave more than 5,400 volunteer hours, valued at more than \$500,000 in on-site free care.

Nurse Practitioner, Sandy Urban-Lynch, comments, "What keeps me volunteering at Rhode Island Free Clinic are the truly wonderful people I have the privilege to work with. There is a certain synergy and an atmosphere of genuine caring there that I have never experienced anywhere else."

Giving is the one word that best describes the people and businesses associated with the Free Clinic. Like many area restaurants, **Rue de l'Espoir** donates food for the Free Clinic's volunteers, who often put in a four-hour shift after a full day of work. **Open MRI of New England** donates two MRI and CT scans each month to Free Clinic patients. These critical diagnostic medical tests have been invaluable to the patients

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who otherwise would be unable to access or pay for them. **Rhode Island Hospital, Lifespan, Women & Infants Hospital, Saving Sight, Rhode Island Medical Imaging, University Cardiology, Providence Physical Therapy** and others offer help in similar ways.

Medical and non-medical volunteers, restaurants, hospitals, medical practices, lawyers, accountants, and many others donate their time, services, and expertise to help the Free Clinic care for uninsured Rhode Islanders. Executive Director, Lisa Smolski states, "At Rhode Island Free Clinic, good health starts with good people. And everyone can help."

National Philanthropy Day acknowledges the entire spectrum of services provided by the nonprofit community and recognizes the profound impact that philanthropy has on the fabric of society. Each year, the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), with 26,000 members in 172 chapters around the world, honors individuals and groups that through their hard work and dedication have enhanced philanthropy, their communities, and the world.

This year's awards will be presented to *Outstanding Philanthropic Citizen, Barbara Stillman*; *Outstanding Philanthropic Service Organization, Rhode Island Free Clinic*; *Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation, Whole Foods Market*; and *Outstanding Philanthropic Business, Duffy & Shanley*. The *Goddard Scholarship* will be presented to Burrillville High School senior *Bethany Beauregard*, who exemplifies the qualities and characteristics of a young philanthropist.

Approximately one hundred community *Partners in Philanthropy* are honored each year. Nonprofit agencies such as American Red Cross, Boys & Girls Club, City Year, Meeting Street, A Wish Come True, Festival Ballet, Trinity Repertory Company, Meals on Wheels, Save the Bay, and United Way pay tribute to individuals and groups for their commitment to furthering the mission of their non-profit organization through their significant generosity, outstanding leadership and exemplary volunteer contributions.

#### Information at a glance

What: 23<sup>rd</sup> annual National Philanthropy Day—Celebrating the Joy of Giving in RI  
When: Tuesday, November 22, 12:00 Noon Luncheon  
Where: Rhode Island Convention Center  
Ticket price: \$45.00  
Sponsorships available: \$450 and higher  
Purchase info: On-line at [www.afpri.org](http://www.afpri.org)  
More information: [www.afpri.org](http://www.afpri.org) / 401.461-3863 (FUND)

#### About the Association of Fundraising Professionals

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) is the professional association of individuals responsible for generating philanthropic support for a variety of nonprofit, charitable organizations. It is the largest professional fundraising network in the world. AFP serves more than 26,000 members in more than 171 chapters internationally. Its mission is to foster professional growth and philanthropy through education programs, international and local conferences, professional networking, mentoring and scholarship opportunities. In addition, AFP seeks to recognize philanthropists for their generous giving.

The many activities of the Rhode Island Chapter include professional and career education, mentoring, advocacy and outreach, and the Rhode Island celebration of National Philanthropy Day.

AFP-RI is committed to implementing local initiatives that assure cultural and social diversity in its membership, leadership, and educational programs. The Rhode Island Chapter has over 200 members who represent a broad range of local non-profit organizations. In addition to hosting National Philanthropy Day, the chapter sponsors monthly educational opportunities, a two day intensive First Course in Fundraising workshop, and an annual daylong fundraising conference.