



Contact: Tamara Sullivan
513-583-1433
tsullivan1@cinci.rr.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRIDGES' VETERAN ROBERT HARRIS BECOMES SENIOR ADVISOR, DEVOTES TIME TO HIS ART

CINCINNATI, OH February 25, 2008 – After more than a decade as the community relations coordinator for BRIDGES for a Just Community and a 30-year career of promoting inclusion, equity and justice for all citizens, Robert Harris will become a senior advisor with BRIDGES beginning March 1. His new affiliation with BRIDGES will be as a part-time contractor.

“Robert’s contributions to BRIDGES and the field of social justice have made him an invaluable asset to this organization. While we will miss having his full-time participation in our day-to-day work, it is gratifying to know that we will still have his counsel as needed,” said Robert C. “Chip” Harrod, president and CEO of BRIDGES for a Just Community.

At BRIDGES, Mr. Harris has been involved in many aspects of community consensus building, working with diverse groups focused on inclusion and justice issues. Robert is also very active in the community and has served on many boards and committees, including the Ohio Arts Council’s Artist with Disabilities Advisory Committee, The Contemporary Art Center, United Cerebral Palsy Center and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. He has earned much recognition for his achievements and is most proud of the Dream Keeper Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Arts Consortium of Cincinnati, the Fair Media Award from The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and the Rev. McCracken “Peace and Justice” Award. Mr. Harris is a resident of East Walnut Hills.

-(MORE)-

"This decision will free me up to devote more time to my first passion – art. I have been involved in art as a social change agent all my life, and I need to get back to it," said Harris. "I also plan to continue to work for the inclusion of all people who are marginalized in our society," he added.

Harris already has several opportunities for his visual artwork dedicated to social change lined up. His show "Art Beyond Boundaries" opened at the Art Beyond Boundaries Gallery located 1410 Main St. in Over-the-Rhine earlier this month. The Akron Museum of Art has accepted three pieces for a show opening in April. The VSA Arts of Georgia has invited Mr. Harris to present a one-man show either in September of this year or in the spring of 2009.

In addition to visual art, Mr. Harris has a great deal of experience as a writer, art director and producer. He will also be working with *The Cincinnati Herald* as a freelance reporter and editorial cartoonist.

####

About BRIDGES for a Just Community, Inc.

BRIDGES for a Just Community brings people together to achieve inclusion, equity and justice for all who live and work in the Greater Cincinnati community. As the region's leading human relations organization, BRIDGES' vision is to create a respectful, equitable and welcoming community for all citizens through education, advocacy and dialogue. Formerly the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) of Greater Cincinnati, BRIDGES for a Just Community has served the region since 1944. For more information, call BRIDGES at 513-381-4660 or visit online at www.bridgescincinnati.org.