



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BRIDGES FOR A JUST COMMUNITY HOSTS NINTH ANNUAL
WALK AND FREEDOM RUN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2007**

GE Aviation, Mercy Hospitals, Duke Energy Serving as Major Sponsors

CINCINNATI, OH – September 6, 2007 – BRIDGES for a Just Community, in partnership with GE Aviation, Mercy Hospitals, Duke Energy and more than 10 other corporate sponsors, will host its ninth annual unity walk, "BRIDGES Walk For A Just Community & Freedom Run," Saturday, October 13, 2007. The walk/run will start and finish at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center with a certified 5K (3.1 mile) route that goes through downtown Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

Greater Cincinnati residents and teams, organized by local companies, schools and places of worship, participate in BRIDGES Walk for A Just Community to show their commitment to building a more inclusive and just community. All proceeds support the development and expansion of BRIDGES' and the Freedom Center's community leadership programs, including "Healing Through History" dialogue series, "Just Community" Youth Leadership Institute and the annual Police/Youth "Live-In" program. "Thousands of people participate in the annual BRIDGES Walk, yet this year's event promises to be the most diverse and inclusive event we've ever hosted. A new emphasis on kid-friendly activities will promote family fun, while a shortened route will accommodate a more inclusive group of walkers," said Robert "Chip" Harrod, executive director of BRIDGES. "A diverse array of cultural entertainment includes singers, dancers and even quilters," Harrod added.

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The event media partner is WCPO-TV Channel 9 with weekend sports anchor Lisa Cornwell serving as honorary chair for the BRIDGES Walk for a Just Community. Other walk sponsors include Ethicon Endosurgery, Inc.; Catholic Healthcare Partners; Xavier University; Huntington Banks; University of Cincinnati; Megen Construction; KPMG, LLP; Fifth Third Bank; Red Lobster; The Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati; and Chiquita Brands International.

BRIDGES Walk For A Just Community and Freedom Run registration and breakfast begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, October 13. The run begins at 9:45 a.m. and the walk begins at 10 a.m. Following the walk/run, participants can celebrate with a multicultural festival, including food sampling and entertainment. No registration fee is required for walkers – each walker secures as many pledges as they can from family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. The registration fee for the Freedom Run is \$25. For more information about the BRIDGES' Walk registration or to organize a team of walkers, please contact Walk Coordinator Anna Hehman at (513) 381-4660, ext. #12 or register on-line at www.bridgescincinnati.org.

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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.