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**Chicago-Area Professional Women Connect with Local Non-Profits at
WomenOnCall.org's Third Annual "Meet-and-Match" Event**

*Volunteer networking event co-hosted by WomenOnCall.org and
the law firm of Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP*

CHICAGO – February 13, 2009 – On Wednesday evening, more than 200 Chicago-area professional women and 70 non-profits gathered at WomenOnCall.org's third annual "Meet-and-Match" networking event, co-hosted by the organization's sponsor, the law firm of Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP. Based on the concept of "speed dating," this fun, fast-paced event allowed volunteers to explore meaningful and fulfilling volunteer connections with Chicago-area non-profits that have immediate needs for volunteers with specific expertise.

Founded by Chicago civic leader Margot Pritzker in 2006, WomenOnCall.org is a non-profit organization that uses the Internet to facilitate volunteer connections between Chicago-area professional women, both in and out of the work force, with meaningful non-profit volunteer opportunities that allow them to use their professional skills and personal talents.

"At WomenOnCall.org, we recognize that time is a premium for professional women," said Pritzker. "One hour in a day is extremely valuable to a busy person. But, we also know that given the right match of volunteer skills and opportunity, even just one hour of service a week has the potential to positively impact people's lives."

Pritzker went on to say, "While these connections normally occur through the WomenOnCall.org Web site, the "Meet-and-Match" event facilitates the introductory process, allowing our volunteer members to meet non-profit organizations they might not have known of previously."

Sheli Z. Rosenberg, the retired chief CEO, president and chairwoman of Equity Group Investments, Inc., and the co-founder and president of the initiative for the Center for Executive Women at Northwestern's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Business, provided brief remarks to kick-off the event.

"I'm 67 years old and this is the worst economic climate I have seen. It's not a choice, it's absolutely necessary that women, especially those in the business world, start the movement of helping out – volunteering – when and where they can," said Rosenberg. "Women tend to be the CEO of the household, the family. And you work full-time. It doesn't seem like there's time to do more, but that's what this is all about – making discreet commitments to share your skills in the

most effective manner. A small time commitment, but a huge impact, especially when added up. Women who share their professional skills can help a non-profit make enormous progress in a very short time.”

Emily Mulder Milman, a partner at Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP and co-chair of the firm's Women's Network, noted that the amazing turnout of women wishing to volunteer their time is a testament to the vibrant and active community of professional women here in Chicago. "Looking around the room, I had such enthusiasm about the connections being made; connections that will benefit not only the not-for-profit involved, but also the women volunteers. Our firm was so proud to be a part of this win-win event."

Volunteers at the event moved from table to table, meeting a variety of non-profits in need of skills. “During this recession, it’s always bad news. Colleagues are getting laid off, resources are thin. This event was the best medicine for that. The dynamics and the energy made me ready to get out there and volunteer. It’s going to be hard to choose which organizations to work with!” said Marilyn Murphy, software trainer and technical writer with a music background.

“Being at this event was so inspiring. All these women were here to help and offering my organization all kinds of incredible skills. It was really wonderfully unexpected and completely straightforward – beyond finding women with skills that match my organization’s needs, getting our name out and networking was fantastic too,” said Raul Gonzalez, representing Working Bikes, a non-profit that recovers donated and landfill-bound bicycles, repairs them to working condition, and sells them to Chicagoans at a low cost, using the money for charity organizations that provide bicycles to the Gulf Coast, Ghana, Tanzania, Angola, Cuba, Guatemala and Peru.

WomenOnCall.org’s “Meet-and-Match” event facilitated numerous meaningful and lasting connections between Chicago-area women and non-profits. “We’re proud to continue to have such high positive connection rates between volunteers and non-profits at the “Meet-and-Match” for the third consecutive year,” added Pritzker.

Currently, WomenOnCall.org has 300 non-profit members and more than 530 volunteer members representing women from all sectors of Chicago’s business and civic community. Membership is free and open to the public.

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For more information, visit www.WomenOnCall.org or contact 773/529-5492 or info@womenoncall.org.

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