



Contact: Steve Coates
Telephone: 860.761.7342
Fax: 860.297.0174
Email: steve.coates@opp.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2008

Bank of America Steps Up to Educate Hartford Youth *Bank hosts OPP youth at No Child Left Behind Play*

Hartford, CT.....Thanks to the generous contribution of Bank of America, 35 Our Piece of the Pie® youth and staff attended the play “No Child” at Theater Works in Hartford on September 16th.

The award winning play centers on a teacher in one of New York’s toughest inner-city schools as she fights through budget constraints, metal detectors, standardized testing, and teacher burnout to find a way to reach students.

“The play gave our youth and staff a chance to see that they are not alone, and that barriers they face in the classroom can be overcome,” said Bob Rath President/CEO of Our Piece of the Pie. “It’s also important for our youth to experience the great art and culture of this city,” Rath said. “We thank Bank of America for the opportunity.”

Bank of America hosted dozens of youth from several local non-profits at the show.

In 2007, Our Piece of the Pie was given the Neighborhood Builder's award as part of Bank of America's Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Program. Recipients receive \$200,000 of unrestricted grant funding over the course of two years, which could be used

to cover operating expenses and build program capacity. In addition, as part of this award, Our Piece of the Pie attended a leadership development program for the executive director and an emerging leader to learn with other non-profit leaders across the country.

“Bank of America is proud of its longstanding relationship with Our Piece of the Pie,” said Dean Andrews, Senior Vice President, Market Development Manager.

Building on a long-standing tradition of investing in the communities it serves, Bank of America will embark in 2009 on a new, ten-year goal to donate \$2 billion to nonprofit organizations engaged in improving the health and vitality of their neighborhoods. Funded by Bank of America, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation gave more than \$200 million in 2007, making the bank the most generous financial institution in the world and the second largest donor of all U.S. corporations in cash contributions. Bank of America approaches giving through a national strategy called "neighborhood excellence" under which it works with local leaders to identify and meet the most pressing needs of individual communities. Through Team Bank of America, bank associate volunteers contributed more than 650,000 hours in 2007 to enhance the quality of life in their communities nationwide. For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, please visit www.bankofamerica.com/foundation.

Our Piece of the Pie, Inc. helps Hartford youth, ages 14-24, become successful adults. OPP gives at-risk youth who face multiple barriers access to programs which allow them to achieve their educational and employment goals



OPP youth with Bank of America's Dean Andrews

#####