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**A Member of Lutheran  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OMAHA-BASED NONPROFIT IS SEMI-FINALIST FOR \$250,000 COLLABORATION PRIZE**

OMAHA, Neb. – Mosaic, an Omaha-based nonprofit, has been selected as one of 30 semi-finalists from among 644 applicants nationwide for the Lodestar Foundation's Collaboration Prize, which will be awarded for the first time this year. The Collaboration Prize, a cash award of \$250,000, will be presented on March 5, 2009 to the nonprofit collaboration that illustrates the most successful collaboration model. This annual award was developed by the Lodestar Foundation, in association with the Arizona-Indiana-Michigan (AIM) Alliance, to award nonprofits for eliminating duplication, creating efficiencies and conserving resources by collaborating rather than competing.

In an effort to best serve their clients, on July 1, 2003, two Nebraska-based national nonprofits serving individuals with developmental disabilities, Bethphage and Martin Luther Homes, merged to form Mosaic. Several similarities drove the merger. Both legacy organizations focused on quality services, served the same client population, shared a heritage in the Lutheran church, supported advocacy efforts and relied on overlapping donor bases. The merger resulted in the creation of the largest nonprofit provider of services for people with developmental disabilities in the United States. It also resulted in considerable efficiencies and an organization whose commitment to quality services was recognized when it became the only organization to receive a Basic Assurances® Network Certification from The Council on Quality and Leadership.

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Rochelle Cummings, former Board Officer of Mosaic and Bethphage, nominated Mosaic for The Collaboration Prize. “The merger between Bethphage and Martin Luther Homes was driven by a passionate commitment to the people served by both organizations, a shared vision of how services should be provided and a willingness to take on the challenge of a merger,” said Cummings. “Mosaic has emerged as an effective and efficient organization that deserves The Collaboration Prize.”

Mosaic is the only Nebraska nonprofit on the semi-finalist list. “Mosaic is honored to be named as one of 30 semi-finalists,” stated Linda Timmons, Mosaic President and Chief Executive Officer. “This represents our dedication to making great things happen in the lives of all people. The Collaboration Prize would help Mosaic continue to provide consistent quality in all that we do to support people with disabilities.”

The Collaboration Prize Selection Panel will choose eight finalists to be announced in early December. The Prize recipient will be announced on March 5, 2009 during the first of two days of programming on collaboration. The announcement will be made at a seminar on collaboration sponsored by the Association of Small Foundation; on the following day, the finalists will participate in the Spring Forum on Nonprofit Effectiveness, held by the Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation at Arizona State University. Visit [www.thecollaborationprize.org](http://www.thecollaborationprize.org) for a full list of [eligibility requirements](#), general information and answers to [frequently asked questions](#).

### ***About Mosaic***

Mosaic provides individualized services, living options, work choices, spiritual nurture and advocacy to people with disabilities in more than 100 communities across 14 states and Great Britain. Mosaic is an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a recognized service organization of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and a member of Lutheran Services in America. Mosaic is a 501(c)(3) organization. [www.mosaicinfo.org](http://www.mosaicinfo.org).

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