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**Opening Doors to Extraordinary Lives**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Mosaic in Dallas Executive Director Honored with Professional of the Year Award from the Arc in Dallas**

Dallas, Texas – June 13, 2008 – Jo Beth Collier, Executive Director of Mosaic in Dallas, was honored with the ‘Professional of the Year’ award given by the Arc of Dallas. This award recognizes a professional in the field of intellectual disabilities who demonstrates exceptional commitment or makes an outstanding contribution toward improving the quality of life for the individuals and families they serve.

In her 4 ½ years as Executive Director of Mosaic in Dallas, Collier has lead Mosaic to become a stronger more cohesive agency and to achieve a 3-year with distinction designation/accreditation with the Council on Quality and Leadership in Supports for People with Disabilities (CQL). Mosaic is the ONLY agency in the entire state of Texas to have this distinction.

Collier has challenged and succeeded in raising awareness of the need for more advocates for people who have disabilities who are served through private providers. She speaks at local school, community and media events concerning advocacy and legislative issues.

“Jo Beth has been advocating for people who have disabilities for almost 30 years. As a young girl, she stood up for people who were teased and ridiculed for their differences,” said Beth Sabella, Community Relations Manager of Mosaic in Dallas.

Collier’s mother told her it was her destiny to stand up for those unable to advocate for themselves. She is an ardent supporter and advocate for people who have disabilities with for focus on advocacy regarding legislative issues as they pertain to funding for programs for people who have disabilities.”

Collier has traveled to Washington DC on several occasions to represent those served by Mosaic and other agencies. When first meeting Collier, it will not be five minutes before she tells you her story and talks about how advocacy helps those we serve and is so desperately needed.

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“Jo Beth is an excellent role model for people in service, employees, parents and community members as an advocate committed to making a daily difference in the lives of the people Mosaic serves and others who have disabilities both locally and on a national level, said Sabella. “It is an honor to work with her and for her.”

Collier was recognized for her exceptional commitment toward improving the quality of life for the individuals and families she serves at the Arc of Dallas Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner on June 13.

Through her passion for advocacy, Collier exemplifies Mosaic’s Mission Statement: “In partner with people who have disabilities, Mosaic supports and advocates so that all may realize God’s gift of wholeness of life.”

Mosaic provides individualized services, living options, work choices, spiritual nurture and advocacy to people with disabilities in more than 250 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.

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