



NEWS RELEASE

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American League of Lobbyists Named to 2009 Associations Advance America Honor Roll

The American League of Lobbyists (ALL) has been named to the **2009 Associations Advance America Honor Roll**, a national awards competition sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and The Center for Association Leadership, Washington, DC.

ALL received the award for two ongoing charitable projects – Hoops for Youth and the Capitol PurSuit Drive. Founded in 1999 by former league president Paul Miller, Hoops for Youth (formerly Hoops for Hope) pits its lobbyist members against Members of Congress in an annual fundraiser basketball game. Expanded last year to include a kids' basketball tournament and a "Hill Day" for students to learn about Congress, the event has raised nearly \$400,000 since its inception. Funds are distributed through local charities that focus on D.C. youth, including mentoring and educational programs, eye glasses and school needs, and suicide prevention. "Hoops for Hope has been an opportunity for all of us – Republican, Democrat, and Independent – to put politics aside for an evening to do something for some really special kids. This recognition is a credit to ALL and its members," said Miller.

The Capitol PurSuit Drive, founded five years ago by current ALL president Dave Wenhold, is an annual, one-day clothing drive conducted on Capitol Hill. Co-sponsored with Men's Wearhouse, the drive is conducted in partnership with Members of Congress and their staff to gather "gently used" professional clothing. Collected items are distributed nationwide to equip low-income individuals as they transition into the workplace. The five-year total surpasses 44,000 individual items of clothing with a conservative market value of \$1.68 million. Wenhold states that "this event is a prime example of the work that lobbyists do to help out their fellow Americans, we give people a hand up and not a hand out."

Now in its 19th year, the prestigious **Associations Advance American (AAA) Awards** program recognizes associations that propel America forward – with innovative

projects in education, skills training, standards setting, business and social innovation, knowledge creation, citizenship and community service. Although association activities have a powerful impact on everyday life, they often go unnoticed by the general public.

“ALL’s programs truly embody the spirit of the Associations Advance America campaign. It is an honor and an inspiration to showcase this activity as an example of the many contributions association are making to advance American society,” remarked AAA Committee Chair Janet C. Gibbs, chief financial officer of Feeding America.

For more information on either Hoops for Youth or the Capitol PurSuit Drive, contact Patti Jo Baber at 703-960-3011.)

The American League of Lobbyists, founded in 1979, is the national association dedicated to serving government relations and public affairs professionals. Its members include leading Washington representatives from corporations, trade associations, labor unions, government agencies, interest groups, and law and lobbying firms. Questions may be directed to Executive Director, Patti Jo Baber, at alldc.org@erols.com or 703-960-3011.