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A Wider Circle's Executive Director is Awarded People Magazine and Major League Baseball's "All-Star Among Us" Award.

Silver Spring, Md. – On July 13, Major League Baseball's finest players won't be the only all-stars taking the field at the 2010 All-Star Game. Dr. Mark Bergel, the Executive Director of A Wider Circle – a local nonprofit helping children and adults lift themselves out of poverty – will be one of the 30 finalists represented at the 2010 All-Star Game as People Magazine and Major League Baseball's "All-Stars Among Us."

When Mark volunteered to deliver food to impoverished residents of the Washington, D.C. area, he met families lacking food, beds and access to health care. Responding to the depth of poverty he witnessed, Mark left his career as a professor at American University to found A Wider Circle that has since helped more than 50,000 individuals. Mark's extraordinary efforts to end poverty in our nation's capital region fortunately have not gone unnoticed. Mark, who was originally one of three finalists selected to represent the Washington Nationals for this competition, will travel to Anaheim, California to take part in various festivities surrounding the 2010 All-Star Game.

About A Wider Circle: A Wider Circle, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Silver Spring, Md., utilizes a unique holistic approach to serving families in need throughout the capital region. The organization provides beds, dressers, cribs, and other basic need items to families transitioning out of shelters or simply living without life's necessities. A Wider Circle furnishes the homes of thousands of people per year – children and adults who are sleeping on the floor and storing their belongings in plastic garbage bags. They also go into low-income schools, shelters, and community centers to lead educational workshops on topics ranging from healthy self-esteem

and stress management to resume writing and financial planning. In 2008, A Wider Circle was named “one of Greater Washington’s finest small charities” by the Catalogue for Philanthropy.

About Dr. Bergel: Bergel has served as the Executive Director of A Wider Circle for all nine years of its existence, bringing to his position both a high level of experience and knowledge in the field. Prior to founding A Wider Circle in 2001, Bergel spent 15 years managing health and wellness initiatives and serving as a part-time faculty member at American University. He is a nationally acclaimed speaker in the fields of poverty, health, and social connection and has been a featured guest on national television and radio programs. Bergel earned a Bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University and went on to receive both Masters and Doctoral degrees from American University. Mark was recently awarded the Essence of Leadership Award at Greater DC Cares Business and Nonprofit Philanthropy Summit. In 2008, Bergel received the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region’s Linowes Leadership Award for “unsung heroes” who are “extraordinary people... with compelling stories of courage and commitment.”

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