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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **REM and Ohio MENTOR Celebrate 25 Years of Service**

AKRON, OH – JULY 14, 2008 – REM Ohio and Ohio Mentor, partners of The MENTOR Network, this month will celebrate 25 years of innovative social services to seniors, adults, youths and children in Ohio. To kick-off the celebration, the organizations will host a celebratory luncheon at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, July 17, 2008. The event will bring together key personnel from the organization's Ohio state office (located in Akron), Minnesota and Florida, as well as Bruce Nardella, executive vice president and chief operations officer, The Mentor Network, Boston, MA.

"This is a celebration of the remarkable achievements that our people have been able to affect as a group of local human services providers supported by a national network dedicated to helping every individual live life to the fullest every day," said Carla Parker, state director, REM Ohio.

The celebration will begin with a Proclamation from Akron's Mayor Don Plusquellic, recognizing REM Ohio and Ohio MENTOR for the contributions they have made in defining a new vision for human services delivery in Ohio.

Both REM Ohio and Ohio Mentor are partners of The MENTOR Network, an organization whose roots date back to 1980 when the organization, as Massachusetts MENTOR, received its first contract to provide therapeutic foster care to children and adolescents in the Boston area. In 1983, The MENTOR Network expanded their operations into Ohio. Soon after REM, Inc, named for founder Robert E. Miller and founded in Minnesota, brought their innovative model for providing flexible, person-centered services to the MRDD community to Ohio, establishing Akron as the state headquarters.

In 2003, The MENTOR Network and REM, Inc., merged, bringing Ohio MENTOR and REM Ohio together as partners under The MENTOR Network umbrella.

"The founders of The Mentor Network and REM both shared a vision for innovation and reform in the delivery of human services," added Parker. "As we look ahead, we see ourselves continuing to move that vision forward by offering each individual we serve flexible, person-centered service and support so that they can grow and thrive in the communities they call home. .

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#### **About REM Ohio**

REM Ohio specializes in serving the needs of individuals and families living with mental retardation and developmental disabilities through a range of programming that includes:

- Community shared homes and residential support services

- Community employment programs and other vocational support
- Professional services such as medical and therapy support, daily living assistance, case management and treatment plan design

By providing a wide range of service options, and adapting those services as the needs of the individual change, REM Ohio ensures a quality experience for each person they serve, their families, community partners and multiple funding sources.

### **About Ohio MENTOR**

Ohio MENTOR specializes in providing therapeutic foster care and supportive services for children and youths with special medical, psychological, social and emotional needs who are able to accept and respond to the close relationships within a family setting, but whose special needs require more intensive or therapeutic services than are found in traditional foster care.