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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **REM Ohio Celebrates National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week**

*U.S. Senate Resolution highlights service of direct support workforce the week of September 8*

**AKRON, OH – September 4, 2008** – REM Ohio is gearing up to celebrate a historic first for the direct support workforce. To honor and show their deep appreciation for a workforce of quiet heroes, earlier this year the U.S. Senate unanimously approved Senate Resolution 613 (S.Res. 613). This legislation designates the week beginning September 8 as “National Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Week”.

DSPs are the people who work as direct care workers, in-home support workers, personal assistants and attendants to ensure that people with disabilities are able to live more independently and in community settings.

“Without the work of our DSPs,” said Carla Parker, State Director REM Ohio “hundreds of individuals with disabilities would not thrive and live as independently as possible in the local communities they chose to call home. National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week is one small way to demonstrate our gratitude for what they unselfishly do for so many.”

In an effort to recognize the contributions of their DSP workers, REM Ohio has special “treats and treatments” scheduled throughout the week, including:

Tuesday, September 9 – Massages & Sweets – DSPs can sign up for a pampering session between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 9 – Coffee & Prizes for Medina County DSPs, Cool Beans Café on the Square from 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 10 – REM Ohio supervisors and clerical staff will be making lunch for all DSPs at the Ellet Community Center, 2449 Wedgewood Drive, at 12 noon.

Thursday, September 11 – Car Wash Giveaway

Friday, September 12 – Guess & Win Drawing for prizes and gift baskets.

Saturday, September 13 – Pancake Breakfast cooked by supervisors for DSPs from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., at Opportunities, 3333 Manchester Rd., Ste 9.

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### **About REM Ohio**

REM Ohio specializes in serving the needs of individuals and families living with intellectual 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. REM Ohio is a partner of The Mentor Network.