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HUNTINGTON BANK AND ITS COMMUNITY PRESIDENT BARBARA BEREBITSKY HONORED AT PEOPLE OF VISION DINNER

TOLEDO – Huntington Bank and its Community President Barbara Berebitsky were recognized for outstanding community service and philanthropic vision at Prevent Blindness Ohio's fourth annual People of Vision Award Dinner. Mercy Health Partners and its President and CEO Steven Mickus hosted the gala dinner at The Dana Conference Center at The Toledo Hilton from 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Thursday, March 8, 2007. Chrys Peterson, television's WTOL 11 news anchor, emceed the event.

The People of Vision Award was established in 1985 by Prevent Blindness Ohio to recognize selected Ohio corporations and their top leadership for outstanding community vision. The People of Vision Award Dinner is certain to be one of northwest Ohio's premier charitable events. Companies, organizations and individuals purchased tables or seats to the dinner. More than 150 community leaders attended the event and raised more than \$55,000 to support the sight-saving programs of Prevent Blindness Ohio.

Prevent Blindness Ohio's mission is to prevent blindness and preserve sight through advocacy, research and early detection. Prevent Blindness Ohio provides direct services to more than 800,000 Ohioans annually and arms millions of consumers with information to preserve their precious gift of sight. Last year, Prevent Blindness Ohio provided access to comprehensive eye exams and eyeglasses to 5,465 medically indigent adults and children.

More Ohioans than ever are facing the threat of blindness from age-related eye disease. In Lucas and Wood counties, more than 134,000 adults have vision impairment and age-related eye diseases including cataracts, glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.

Statewide, one out of every four school-aged children has a vision problem that may be undetected or untreated. In Ohio, approximately 6% of children *enter school each year* with undetected and untreated vision problems. If left untreated, these vision problems can cause permanent damage to their eyes and their success in school.

Prevent Blindness Ohio is celebrating 50 years as Ohio's leading volunteer nonprofit public health organization dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight. Founded in 1957 by U.S. Senator John Bricker and Lion's Club Member, Bob Morrison, with support from Nationwide, the Ohio Department of Health and Delta Gamma Fraternity, Prevent Blindness Ohio established the Northwest Ohio Chapter Office in 2002 with support from John Szuch, Fifth Third Bank, Jim Hoffman, KeyBank, Former Mayor Jack Ford, The Toledo Sight Center, The Toledo Community Foundation & Dr. Elizabeth Ruppert. From the beginning, Prevent Blindness Ohio's mission has remained steadfast – ***to prevent blindness and preserve sight.*** Our goal is to prevent the 50% of vision loss that is needless and ***help all Ohioans enjoy good sight for life!***



Host Steven Mickus, President and CEO of Mercy Health Partners, and Honoree Barbara Berebitsky, Community President of Huntington Bank.