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CAREWORKS AND ITS CHAIRMAN AND CEO WILLIAM W. PFEIFFER TO BE HONORED AT PEOPLE OF VISION AWARD DINNER

COLUMBUS – CareWorks and its Chairman and CEO William W. Pfeiffer will be recognized for outstanding community service and philanthropic vision at Prevent Blindness Ohio's 22nd annual People of Vision Award Dinner. OhioHealth and its President and CEO David P. Blom will host the gala dinner at The Columbus Renaissance Hotel from 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, 2007. Andrea Cambern, WBNS-TV Channel 10 news anchor, will emcee 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 central Ohio's premier charitable events. Companies, organizations and individuals can purchase tables or seats to the dinner. More than 400 community leaders are expected to attend the event and raise more than \$220,000 gross 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 Franklin County, more than 227,000 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 impede 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, PBO serves all 88 Ohio counties. Prevent Blindness Ohio is an affiliate of Prevent Blindness America, the country's second-oldest national voluntary health organization. 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!