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### **The Tahirih Justice Center Wins the 2007 Washington Post Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management**

**Washington, D.C.** — The Tahirih Justice Center (Tahirih) is recognized by the Center for Nonprofit Advancement as the 2007 winner of the Washington Post Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management. The award was announced yesterday at a ceremony held at The Washington Post Building. Tahirih will receive a \$10,000 cash grant, as well as a scholarship for one person to attend the Georgetown University Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership's Nonprofit Management Executive Certificate Program.

To address the acute and growing needs of immigrant women and girls fleeing gender-based violence, Tahirih has developed an innovative and comprehensive approach that combines direct legal services, client-based public policy advocacy, holistic social and medical service referrals, and public education. An annual strategic planning process allows Tahirih to regularly assess the needs of its clients and to design and manage programs around their most pressing concerns. In addition, in order to most efficiently serve the ever-increasing numbers of women and girls seeking protection, Tahirih leverages extensive support from professional volunteers including attorneys, doctors, and public relations professionals who donated \$3.4 million in services in 2006 and helped to triple the number of women and girls Tahirih serves. Since opening its doors in 1997, Tahirih has grown to a staff of 18 and, through direct services and referrals, has served over 6,000 women and children.

"Organizations such as Tahirih are the heart of the Washington nonprofit community," said Betsy Johnson, the Executive Director of the Center for Nonprofit Advancement. "We are pleased to acknowledge them as a stellar example that other organizations should follow."

The award selection committee noted several outstanding management practices for Tahirih. Some examples of management excellence include:

- Extensive use of pro bono attorneys and other professional services
- Thoughtful and strategic planning for both the short- and long-term on the department level as well as across the entire organization
- Use of market research and assessing its impact on their strategic plan
- Organizational sensitivity to staff workload and burnout potential, including offering second-hand trauma training and a timesheet code for staff respite time
- Mindful engagement in the struggle to encourage cultural sensitivity, including both training staff in cultural competency and providing training to other outside groups

Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, The Washington Post Award is a competitive program open to all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in the Washington metropolitan area. Candidates are judged in the areas of fiscal management, information and communication, organizational development, people development, planning, resource development, risk management, and use of technology. The award is sponsored by The Washington Post Company, with additional support from RAFFA and Georgetown University's Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership.

The award selection process entails three rounds. Applicants must answer pre-determined questions in the first two rounds. Once selected for the third and final round, qualifying organizations host a site visit, where they meet with the selection committee and answer any remaining questions about the organization's practices. During the 2007 selection process, the committee reviewed applications from 32 organizations.

To learn more about the work of the Tahirih Justice Center, please contact Allyn B. Summa, Director of Development and Communications, at 703-575-0070 or [allyn@tahirih.org](mailto:allyn@tahirih.org), or visit [www.tahirih.org](http://www.tahirih.org).