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**Area Foodies Came Out in Record Crowds to the 22nd Annual Taste of Arlington®
Ballston Restaurants Sweep Best of the Best Competition**

May 20, 2009 - Ballston (Arlington, VA) – Area foodies came out in record crowds to the **22nd Annual Taste of Arlington®** on **Sunday, May 17**. Approximately 15,000 came out for this event to sample gourmet tastes from over 40 signature restaurants, enjoy lively local entertainment, have diversity dialog discussions in the World Café’ and treat kids to a colorful variety of children’s activities. The event also exceeded its fundraising goals in which the proceeds will benefit Community Residences, Inc., a local non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities to live independently in the community.

Best of the Best Competition

Ballston established itself as a culinary mecca with a clean sweep of all the restaurant awards at Sunday’s Taste of Arlington®. Willow, Sangam and Pinzimini took all of the prizes in the Best of the Best competition. The contest, based on selection, taste and presentation, is conducted every year as part of the popular event. Judges included area media celebrities, food writers, politicians and government officials, who evaluated the 42 restaurants that participated in the 22nd Annual Taste of Arlington®.

Chefs Tracy O’Grady and Kate Jansen of Willow Restaurant, located at 4301 N. Fairfax Drive, received the top prize for their delectable grilled flatbreads. Sangam Restaurant, which has placed in the top three for the last six years, including three times as top prize winner, served a variety of signature Indian dishes. And, Scott Burnham, sous chef at Pinzimini, the Italian steak house in The Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel, presented an Italian-themed menu including Caesar salad, Radiatore Bolognese with Meat Ragu, and Torta Gianduju, chocolate hazelnut Cake.

The Ballston-Virginia Square Partnership organized and hosted the highly-anticipated Taste of Arlington® event, having purchased the rights from Community Residences, Inc. The Ballston-Virginia Square Partnership teamed up with the Clarendon Alliance, Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, Rosslyn Renaissance and the National Science Foundation to produce the 2009 Taste of Arlington®.

The Leadership Committee would like to thank all the 2009 sponsors, restaurants, media partners, volunteers, and judges for their continued support of this spectacular community event. A complete list of participating sponsors, restaurants and community contributors is available at the Taste of Arlington website www.tasteofarlington.com.

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About Ballston Virginia Square Partnership

The Ballston-Virginia Square Partnership is a public-private organization of citizens, real estate professionals, businesses, civic and condominium associations, educational institutions and non-profits with the mission of promoting and enhancing the Ballston and Virginia Square areas as desirable communities in which to live, learn, work, shop and play. Founded in 1985, it has played a role in, and continues to influence, the development decisions and environmental enhancements for these two urban villages. www.ballstonvasquare.org

About Clarendon Alliance

The Clarendon Alliance is a public-private partnership chartered by the Arlington County Board in 1986 to promote the health and vitality of Clarendon, Arlington's original downtown commercial district, and its surrounding areas. We market existing businesses in Clarendon and the community in general. Members of the Alliance include commercial property owners, small and large businesses, financial institutions, government representatives, neighborhood community groups and individuals. www.clarendon.org

About Rosslyn Renaissance

As a membership organization, RR informs, involves and engages the community in planning for the future. Founded in 1991, its mission is to work with residential, commercial, cultural, and government communities to realize Rosslyn's potential as a distinctive urban environment through a focus on urban design and development. www.rosslynva.org

About Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization

The Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, public/private partnership. Established on May 14, 1986, CPRO is a coalition of businesses, civic associations, property owners, and individuals working with the Arlington County Government. It works to provide direction and support to improve and revitalize Columbia Pike and its adjacent neighborhoods. www.columbiapike.org

About National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering, with an annual budget of \$6.06 billion. NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to over 1,900 universities and institutions. Each year, NSF receives about 45,000 competitive requests for funding, and makes over 11,500 new funding awards. NSF also awards over \$400 million in professional and service contracts yearly. www.nsf.gov