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News Release

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Top Ten Best Health Charities Chosen by Doctors Group

Medical Charities All Carry “Humane Charity Seal of Approval”

Washington, D.C.—Just in time for the holiday giving season, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) announces its first-ever Top Ten Best Health Charities list. The health-advocacy group has selected organizations that offer a diverse array of needed services but that don’t offend donors’ ethics by funding or conducting animal tests.

All the charities included in PCRM’s Top Ten list carry the “Humane Seal Charity Seal of Approval,” a new designation developed by the Council on Humane Giving, a coalition of physicians, animal protection groups, and other organizations concerned about animal testing. Administered by PCRM, the Council certifies those health charities that provide vital patient services or conduct cutting-edge research without the use of animals.

Top Ten Best Health Charities 2002

American Association on Mental Retardation
800-424-3688; www.aamr.org

American Kidney Fund
800-638-8299; www.kidneyfund.org

Birth Defect Research for Children, Inc.
800-313-2232; www.birthdefects.org

Caring for Children and Families with AIDS
323-931-9828; www.4ccfa.org

Disabled American Veterans
859-441-7300; www.dav.org

The Garland Appeal (Breast cancer research)
www.garlandappeal.com

Gilda Radner Familial Ovarian Cancer Registry
800-682-7426 (1-800-OVARIAN); www.ovariancancer.com

Lymphoma Foundation of America
703-875-9800; www.lymphomahelp.org

National Federation of the Blind
410-659-9314; www.nfb.org

PRIDE Youth Programs (Drug and violence prevention) www.prideyouthprograms.org

Charities are not ranked; they appear in alphabetical order. More information about each one, along with a full list of all certified charities, can be found at www.HumaneSeal.org. PCRM does not charge for its certification process.

“This is a perfect time of the year to remember those charities working to improve people’s lives in the most effective and humane way possible,” says surgeon and PCRM member Jerry Vlasak, M.D. “Our Top Ten List spotlights charities who do just that. Just like all our Humane Seal-certified charities, these ten provide crucial services, but do not fund animal tests. With surveys showing that most Americans would prefer giving to ‘cruelty-free’ charities—when given an opportunity to make an educated decision—we’re delighted to make this information available.” PCRM believes that the best way to advance human health and protect animals is to redirect research dollars to nonanimal testing methods.

Journalists: To schedule an interview with a PCRM physician, please contact Ms. Simon Chaitowitz at 202-686-2210, ext. 309, or simonc@pcrm.org.

Founded in 1985, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) is a nonprofit health organization that promotes preventive medicine, especially good nutrition. PCRM also conducts clinical research studies, opposes unethical human experimentation, and promotes alternatives to animal research.