



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: SooAnn Roberts
202/638.2575 ext. 115**

October 1, 2007

**SAFE SHORES' EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECTED FOR
MEYER FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE AWARD**

Washington, DC – Michele Booth Cole, Executive Director of Safe Shores, The DC Children's Advocacy Center, has been selected as one of five local nonprofit leaders to receive a 2007 Exponent Award from the Meyer Foundation. The Exponent Awards were created in 2006 to provide leadership development and training to outstanding nonprofit leaders in the Washington DC area, and recognize local leaders with a proven track record of accomplishment and success in their particular fields of expertise.

“We are thrilled that Michele Booth Cole, who has lead our organization with passion and vision for more than four years, has been awarded this very important honor,” said Sandra L. Merin, president of the board of directors of Safe Shores. “The Meyer Foundation is the standard-bearer for leadership development and excellence for the nonprofit sector in our community. We are pleased they have recognized Michele's exceptional leadership skills, and excited about the opportunities for growth and development the award will provide Safe Shores.”

Exponent awardees' organizations receive grants of \$100,000 for leadership development and training over a two-year period. The Meyer Foundation places a strong

emphasis on strengthening the organizational capacity and leadership skills of local nonprofits to ensure they are able to effectively meet the needs of those they serve. Exponent award recipients will be honored at a reception and awards program on November 5th.

“I am truly honored to be selected by the Meyer Foundation for this award,” said Booth Cole. “Leading Safe Shores -- an organization that provides such critically important services for children and families in Washington DC -- in today’s environment requires a truly unique blend of skills. This award will provide me with additional tools for success so I may continue to guide our organization into the next decade and beyond.” Cole is a graduate of Harvard-Radcliffe College and Georgetown University Law Center. She was previously the executive director of Mentors, Inc., a mentoring program for DC high school students, as well as Teach For America-DC. She has also worked as a senior government relations professional with the College Board.

Safe Shores - The D.C. Children's Advocacy Center is a direct service nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and working directly with child victims of sexual and physical abuse in the District of Columbia. Through its child-friendly facility and multidisciplinary team approach, Safe Shores coordinates the work of medical and mental health providers, social services professionals, victim advocates, law enforcement, and prosecution officials to reduce trauma and promote healing for child victims of abuse.