

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Sharing Center President Honored As “Local Hero”

Longwood, FL – June 4, 2008 – The Sharing Center is pleased to announce that **Angie Romagosa, President**, has been selected a recipient of the first annual **Community Hero Awards** sponsored by Safeco Insurance, a leading national insurance company.

A Longwood resident, Romagosa was honored for “extraordinary dedication to helping others and inspiring change within her community.” Nominated by Safeco Agent Donald Blackadar of Blackadar Insurance Agency, Longwood, for her tireless commitment to strengthening and enriching our community, Romagosa was presented with a \$15,000 check for The Sharing Center, a non-profit agency assisting low-income families in Seminole County with personal emergency needs.

“Safeco knows every neighborhood has heroes and saw this opportunity to partner with our agents to identify individuals special to them and their hometowns,” said Virginia Anderson, President of Safeco Insurance Foundation. “Safeco’s Community Hero Awards are intended to recognize and celebrate those individuals who make a positive difference in their community and inspire others to do the same.”

Romagosa has led The Sharing Center since it opened in 1986 in an 800 sq. ft. room in Longwood. The Sharing Center now operates from a 13,200 sq. ft. facility in a shopping center that it is purchasing to create a one-stop non-profit center, where more people can be helped with a variety of needs. Last year, 8,100 families were assisted through programs including the food pantry, emergency financial aid, prescription vouchers, gas vouchers for individuals seeking work or starting new jobs, and new shoes for school children. A Disabilities Caseworker helps disabled adults on the road back to employability. A Health Navigator helps those with ongoing medical needs to find a physician or specialist. A MedNet Navigator helps people with long-term illnesses to get help with costs of life-saving prescriptions.

The Sharing Center was chosen 2007 Community Champion of the Year by Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The Sharing Center is located in Fairmont Plaza, 600 N. Hwy. 17-92, Longwood, approx. 1 mile north of Hwy. 434. Phone 407-260-9155 ext. 13. *Easing the stress of families in financial crisis and helping to prevent homelessness*

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