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Contact: Erin Weller Dalton
404-624-5295, ext. 244
erin@movinginthespirit.org

MOVING IN THE SPIRIT SOARS TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH PRESTIGIOUS *MANAGING FOR EXCELLENCE* AWARD

ATLANTA, Georgia – November 14, 2011—Moving in the Spirit, one of the nation’s top youth development programs, has received the prestigious Managing for Excellence Award from The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. This highly competitive award is presented to an organization that exhibits outstanding nonprofit management, where resources are stewarded with excellence and care.

Now in its 25th year of service to the community, Moving in the Spirit transforms the lives of Atlanta’s youth through the art of dance, with programs that inspire, educate and unite them to become compassionate leaders. As a local leader in arts education, Moving in the Spirit has invested in research, development and rigorous evaluation to build its unique curriculum. Its programs link national dance standards with the research-based Positive Youth Development Model, promoted by the Family & Youth Services Bureau, ensuring that outcomes are set and measured against benchmarks proven to transform the lives of youth in lasting ways. When faced with setbacks over recent years, including an economic recession and major flood damage to its facility, Moving in the Spirit’s leadership turned challenge into opportunity, preserving its programs and even expanding its community reach.

“Moving in the Spirit has been able to make a seamless transition from being a program at a local nonprofit to a separate organization providing high quality youth development,” says Kathy Palumbo, director of programs at The Community Foundation. “They diligently research best practices in the field in order to continue to learn and grow. We were also impressed at the organization’s ability to bring diverse perspectives to the decision table, incorporating parents and former students on the board and staff.”

Co-founder and Executive Director of Moving in the Spirit, Dana Marie Lupton, shares, “Moving in the Spirit’s culture of excellence and accountability flows from our Board and management, through our programs and into the lives of the young people we serve. This core accountability, a key characteristic developed in Moving in the Spirit students, prepares children for success in school and life, readying them for a challenging world that requires critical thinking, ingenuity and understanding. Receiving the Managing for Excellence Award affirms our commitment to the highest level of responsibility and stewardship, and our dedication to creating the young leaders of tomorrow. We are humbled to accept this most prestigious honor.”

As a recipient of the Managing for Excellence Award, Moving in the Spirit will receive a \$25,000 cash award, a video highlighting the organizations' excellence, and recognition at The Community Foundation's Annual Meeting of donors and nonprofit leaders.

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Founded by Dana Lupton and Leah Mann in 1986, Moving in the Spirit is a nationally recognized youth development program that uses dance as a vehicle to positively transform the lives of children and teens in Atlanta, Georgia. Through programs that integrate high quality dance instruction with performance, leadership and mentor opportunities, Moving in the Spirit impacts over 250 young people each year, including those from our city's most challenged communities. Ultimately, Moving in the Spirit educates, inspires and unites young people through dance, in order to help them become compassionate leaders. More information can be found at www.movinginthespirit.org.

Since 1951 The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta has been connecting community members, nonprofits and other partners to strengthen the Atlanta region through philanthropy. Today, The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta is one of the largest community foundations in the country, working with more than 650 individual funds and several supporting organizations ranging in value from \$50,000 to \$190 million. Last year The Community Foundation awarded an estimated \$99 million to nonprofits and community-based organizations throughout 23 counties in the metro Atlanta region. For more information please visit www.cfgreateratlanta.org.