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**For Immediate Release**

## 1000<sup>th</sup> match for innovative, online volunteer program, BoardMatch Fundamentals

BoardMatch<sup>®</sup> Fundamentals (BMF), a program of Altruvest Charitable Services, is proud to celebrate its 1000<sup>th</sup> online volunteer match to a charitable board. "It is truly a milestone for us! Being able to say that we have helped 1000 volunteers connect with a local charity board is truly a celebration and a testament to the impact we can have on our communities", says Sol Kasimer, CEO of Altruvest.

In January, Chantal Gabriele, Senior Director, Internal Audit at Maple Leaf Foods was 'board-matched' with the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (Peel Chapter). She is a Certified Internal Auditor and Certified General Accountant, and is responsible for managing internal audit activities for all 15 independent operating companies of Maple Leaf Foods.

When asked why she wanted to join a charitable board, she commented: "I believe that serving on a Board of Directors will help me both personally and professionally. Specifically I believe that it will – hone my leadership skills, assist the organization by sharing my technical skills and experiences, develop personal and professional networking contacts and gain experience in governance. I chose The Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (Peel Chapter) as I'm interested in the disease and the people were very friendly, and receptive to me and the skills I have to offer. I'm looking forward to working with them over the next year."

The Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (Peel Chapter) is part of the national network whose mission is to help people with cystic fibrosis (CF), a fatal inherited disease, affecting mainly the lungs and the digestive system. To this end, the Foundation funds research towards the goal of a cure or control for CF, and supports high quality CF care; promotes public awareness of cystic fibrosis, and raises and allocates funds for these purposes.

### BoardMatch Fundamentals: A Solution That Works

Altruvest believes excellent organizations start with good governance. However, in Canada we have over 1,000,000 board volunteers, with a turnover of at least 25% annually, and many have little or no training as to their roles and responsibilities before assuming the directorship. Individuals with private sector experience are eager to volunteer but many lack a basic understanding of the charitable sector and don't know how to get involved. Our solution is to act as a bridge between these volunteers and the charitable organizations. We do this through our two core governance programs: BoardMatch Fundamentals and BoardMatch Leaders.

BoardMatch Fundamentals is an innovative, online program, which introduces registered charities to enthusiastic and informed candidates willing to share their expertise by serving as members of the boards of charitable organizations. The program also includes online learning modules focused on best practices in Board Governance, Human Resources Planning for Boards and Fundraising Basics.

Over the past 4 years, BoardMatch Fundamentals has placed 1000 volunteers onto many of the boards from our 500+ registered charities in the Greater Toronto and Vancouver Areas, and surrounding areas. BoardMatch Fundamentals launched in Vancouver in 2003 and future expansion plans to other cities have begun.

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## A Look Back At Our First Match

Brenna McGibney, Senior Director, Compensation at CIBC, joined the board of Dixon Hall in May 2000. Now, almost 5 years later, she is completing her second 3-year term on the board of Dixon Hall. Brenna was interested in using her background, as a Human Resources professional, in a volunteer capacity and through Altruvest was able to be matched with an organization that required her skill set.

Commenting on the experience Brenna said, “I have benefited greatly from the experience, by not only using my HR skills in a different environment but from learning a great deal about the operations of a Board and the community that Dixon Hall serves. My experience with Dixon Hall has been very rewarding on a personal and professional basis.”

Dixon Hall, since 1929, strives to meet the diverse needs of those faced with poverty, illness, discrimination, lack of education or others. It fosters community-based programs which encourage self-help, personal growth, cultural enrichment, racial equality and harmony, and economic security.

## How BoardMatch has helped charities

In the Fall of 2004, Altruvest, with the assistance of an evaluation consultant, conducted a satisfaction survey of the charities participating in BoardMatch Fundamentals. The principal question asked was: “Is BoardMatch working for you?” and 144 charities responded. Here is a sampling of the results:

82% satisfied with type of services available through BoardMatch Fundamentals

88% will recommend BMF to other agencies

83% have had a BMF placement

87% will continue to use BMF

Top 3 Areas BMF Volunteers Most Knowledgeable In:

- o 1st Due Diligence, 2nd Stewardship , 3rd Board Governance

Top 3 Areas BMF Volunteers Contribute Most In:

- o 1st Board Governance, 2nd Mission/Strategic Planning, 3rd Due Diligence

The findings from the survey suggest that BoardMatch Fundamentals works, and works well, for most of the charities it serves, in all areas including posting, recruitment, interviewing, board service, and retention. What was most remarkable about the charities’ comments, was regardless of the charity’s experience with BoardMatch, by far, their most frequent comment was: **“Keep it up - continue the excellent work!”**

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BoardMatch Fundamentals is proudly supported by Manulife Financial, our Presenting GTA Partner, and also by Bell Canada, The Counselling Foundation of Canada, and Maritz Canada Inc.

For more information, visit [www.altruvest.org](http://www.altruvest.org)

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