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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christmas SPIRIT Foundation Selects CSF Award Recipients

CHESTERFIELD, Mo. – The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation (CSF) created the Christmas SPIRIT Awards to recognize exceptional efforts to advance the spirit of Christmas for kids, families and the environment by a display of time, talents or financial support. Recognitions are offered in four categories: Industry Award, Community Award, Individual Award and National Christmas Spirit Award. Eight awards were distributed to deserving individuals and organizations for their work in 2008.

Winners of the Industry Award are Christmas Tree growers who helped coordinate CSF's premier program, the Trees for Troops program, within their states. The CSF Board of Trustees recognized Bob White from Underhill, Vt., Greg Smith from Nicholson, Ga. and Dick Darling from Clifton Springs, N.Y. with Industry Awards for their commitment and dedication to helping the 2008 Trees for Troops program be highly successful in their states.

The Community Award is given to a community group who helps to advance the Christmas Spirit for kids, families and the environment. The 2008 Community Award was presented to Bethlehem Elementary School's fifth grade classes and their teachers in Bethlehem, Vt., for their work in raising money to purchase trees to send to military families, as well as helping to load donated trees on FedEx trucks for delivery.

The CSF Board of Trustees provided Individual Awards to Gene Hemphill of New Holland Agriculture and Mel Hartman, founder of T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care) Toys. Hemphill has been a generous supporter of the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, and Hartman has spread the Christmas spirit through his work making wooden toys for children and their families for the holidays.

Cost Plus World Market and SATO Labeling Solutions America received the National Christmas Spirit Award. The National Christmas Spirit Award is reserved for those organizations who go above and beyond expectations by advancing the Christmas Spirit for kids, families and the environment. Cost Plus World Market provided a \$10,000 donation to CSF. For to past two years, SATO Labeling Solutions America has donated tree tags to the Trees for Troops program for consumers to hand-write messages to military families who receive donated trees.

About Christmas SPIRIT Foundation

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation – based in Chesterfield, Mo., is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation that advances the Christmas spirit for children, families and the environment. Trees for Troops is just one of CSF's projects. For more details, go to www.christmasspiritfoundation.org.