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## **Educational Theatre Company Honors AHC as Arts Partner of the Year**

(Arlington, VA) – Educational Theatre Company (ETC), a nonprofit group of professional theatre artists who seek to change the world by helping to unlock the creative and collaborative potential of children by sharing with them our passion for theater arts through school and community based programs in the National Capital Area., has named AHC Inc Arts Partner of the Year.

AHC, the largest developer and owner of affordable housing in Northern Virginia, provides educational services to low- and moderate-income residents at its rental communities. ETC has partnered with AHC's After-School program for several years to offer onsite theater classes that encourage children to use their imaginations and express themselves in creative ways.

"AHC is an amazing arts partner," says Stan Kang, Executive Director, Educational Theatre Company. "There are few opportunities for arts education in the schools today, especially in elementary schools. We want to provide arts access to all, and AHC is a great partner because they help us to reach children who don't have access to supplementary arts education due to economic or family situations."

ETC provides classes for students at four of AHC's community centers. "AHC is so appreciative of the inspiration, warmth and creativity ETC brings to our After-School and Teen programs," says Jennifer Endo, Director, Resident Services. "Besides having a lot of fun, we have seen how the drama program extends children's language skills, focuses their energy, and builds their self-confidence."

The Arts Partner of the Year award will be given at ETC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on May 31. The evening will also include performances from the McKinley and Tuckahoe Elementary Schools' spring musicals. Monies raised will go directly to support ETC's theater programs for children who would otherwise not have an opportunity to participate in theater arts education.

What: Educational Theatre Company 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
When: Saturday, May 31, 2008, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.  
Where: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)  
4301 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA