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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention, Inc. receives significant donation from Washington Mutual**

**Orlando, Fl.** – The Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention, Inc. (CMWP) was the recipient of a significant contribution of \$24,000 from Washington Mutual to help in sponsoring the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wellness and Financial Education Health Fair that is scheduled to take place on September 8, 2007 at the Central Florida Fair & Exposition Park (Fairgrounds) on West Colonial Drive.

WaMu’s primary focus in the community is centered on helping its communities thrive in the areas of affordable housing and personal financial literacy. Last year, the company awarded over \$4.1 million to assist with education and civic betterment programs for Florida communities.

This contribution will be used to in-part to offset the cost of staging one of Central Florida’s premier health fairs, which was formerly known as the Haitian Health Fair. Beverly Dabney, community affairs relationship manager at WaMu said that “we are pleased to partner with an organization that has provided great value to our community and we hope that our contribution will assist them in continuing to provide great services”. The Wellness and Financial Health Fair has been held annually since 2003, during the month of September. It is a one day event that addresses financial and health concerns of the minority communities, specifically Caribbean descent in Central Florida. The Executive Director of CMWP, Dr. Marie Jose Francois stated that “the Caribbean Health fair is a true example of primary prevention where early screening is the key to any type of disease prevention”

There will also be free screenings available for cancer, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, body mass index, HIV and many more. The event has attracted more than 5,000 people over the past four years and it is expected that more than 1,500 individuals will attend this year’s event.

The Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization with the mission to enhance the quality of life for diverse and ethnic populations through the provision of health promotion services in Central Florida. CMWP is an established non-clinical setting, health education and outreach agency in Orlando Florida. The organization has successfully partnered with community and social agencies to effectively address the health education needs of Orange County’s minority communities. For more information about the Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention, please visit our website at [www.cmwp.org](http://www.cmwp.org).

**ABOUT WaMU**

WaMu, through its subsidiaries, is one of the nation’s leading consumer and small business banks. At Mar. 31, 2007, WaMu and its subsidiaries had assets of \$319.99 billion. The company has a history dating back to 1889 and its subsidiary banks currently operate nearly 2,700 consumers and small business banking stores throughout the nation. WaMu’s press releases are available at <http://newsroom.wamu.com>.

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