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WELCOME HOMES VISION SERVICES CLOSING AFTER 60 YEARS

Grand Rapids, MI --January 13, 2012 -- For 60 years, Welcome Homes for the Blind has served the visually impaired of Michigan thanks to the generosity of the Lions, Lioness and Leo Clubs of Michigan, as well as public and private donations, bequests and grants. Because of your generosity, we have been able to serve many individuals living with visual impairment throughout the State.

For over 50 years, Welcome Homes owned and operated a Home for the Aged in Grand Rapids. In 2005, the Board of Directors closed the home and began working in conjunction with retirement communities statewide serving visually impaired residents. In 2008, Welcome Homes expanded services to include individuals in their own home to assist them with independent living.

It is with deep regret that the Board of Directors announces Welcome Homes for the Blind, Inc. dba Welcome Homes Vision Services will be closing its doors effective February 17, 2012. The Board cited the reason to close was due to declining revenue during these tough economic times. "We made a valiant effort to expand services and reach out to more individuals across the state," said a board representative, "but it just isn't working out the way we had originally hoped. This was a very tough decision for us to make, as we all believed in what we were doing and in the lives that we touched."

The Board of Directors announced that once all of their legal liabilities are taken care of, all remaining funds of the organization will be divided equally between Leader Dogs for the Blind, Michigan Eye Bank, Lions of Michigan Foundation and Lions Bear Lake Camp. All of these projects meet our legal responsibilities as a nonprofit organization and have similar missions in helping those with vision loss.

Welcome Homes wishes to thank all of the wonderful people who so generously donated their time and/or money to allow Welcome Homes to serve the visually impaired community for so many years.

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