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CONTACT:

Kathryn Winter, Executive Director, Fair Housing Napa Valley - 707.224.9720

Liza Cristol-Deman, Attorney for Plaintiffs, Brancart & Brancart - 650.879.0141

Stuart Seaborn, Attorney for Plaintiffs, Associate Managing Attorney,

Protection & Advocacy Sacramento Regional Office - 916.488.9950

Kurt Franklin, Attorney for Defendants, Hanson Bridgett - 415.995.5086

Settlement Reached in Case Alleging Disability Discrimination at Senior Housing Complex, Napa

Napa – June 3, 2008. Redwood Retirement Residence and Greater Napa Fair Housing Center announced that they have reached an agreement resolving a housing discrimination lawsuit filed against the Redwood Retirement Residence and related entities. Redwood Retirement Residence is a senior housing community in Napa, California. The Greater Napa Fair Housing Center is an organization which pursues equal opportunity in renting, purchasing, financing and advertising in housing. In the lawsuit Greater Napa Fair Housing Center and four individual plaintiffs alleged that certain actions and policies of Redwood Retirement Residence effectively discriminated against seniors with disabilities. Redwood Retirement Residence denied any wrongdoing. The settlement announced today resolves that litigation without admission of liability and formally ends the lawsuit.

The specific terms of the agreement are confidential, but in the settlement Redwood Retirement Residence agrees to make revisions to its non-discrimination guidelines, to amend provisions in its standard rental and services agreement form, and to change its meal tray policies. In addition, Redwood Retirement has agreed to undertake additional training for management regarding the fair housing laws. Redwood's parent has also agreed to make these changes for its other facilities.

Both Redwood Retirement and the Greater Napa Fair Housing Center expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the litigation and characterized their settlement discussions as cooperative, open and constructive. A common purpose to both organizations – serving senior communities – helped to resolve the dispute. Representatives of both sides agreed that the settlement will help ensure seniors are properly informed about their rights under the fair housing laws, and will help to protect those rights. Kathryn Winter, Executive Director of the Greater Napa Fair Housing Center adds, “This settlement benefits all of the seniors in our community. We look forward to a long and cooperative relationship with the managers and the residents at Redwood Retirement Residence.”