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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2007

**PROGRESS PLUS ANNOUNCES
AGGRESSIVE PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2008**

South St. Paul/Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. After months of discussion and long-range planning, the Progress Plus Board of Directors retained the services of Dowell Stute and Associates to lead the organization in a strategic direction that builds upon past successes and positions itself for the long term as a value-added resource for the South Saint Paul and Inver Grove Heights region.

Much like the communities of South Saint Paul and Inver Grove Heights which it serves, Progress Plus, the unique public-private economic development partnership, has a long tradition of dedication and effort to create a healthy climate for business investment. Through the efforts of Progress Plus, countless businesses have relocated to South Saint Paul and Inver Grove Heights, expanded their business, and created good jobs, a strong tax base and significant economic investment.

“In order to move Progress Plus to the next level of effectiveness for our communities during this critical economic time, we believe that an aggressive plan of action for economic development outreach is in order. Through a new marketing/communications plan we will create a solid platform for the long-term sustainability and success of Progress Plus, which ultimately supports the organization's original vision of enhancing the economic growth and prosperity of South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights, stated Steve Carrier, Bremer Bank and Chair of the Board.

The new marketing/communications plan will be created during the remainder of 2007 and fully executed throughout 2008. “The cornerstone of our efforts will allow for the two communities to be targeted to the economic development broker and investor community as wise choice for business investment and job creation,” stated Jennifer Gale, president of the River Heights Chamber of Commerce.

Larry Dowell and Vicki Stute, partners in Dowell Stute and Associates have extensive knowledge of Progress Plus, the communities it serves, and the marketplace in which it operates. Dowell was one of the original founders of Progress Plus during his tenure as president of the South St. Paul/Inver Grove Heights Chamber of Commerce during the mid-80's. He went on to provide leadership as president in several chambers of commerce located throughout Minnesota, most recently as president of the Saint Paul

Area Chamber of Commerce. Stute also worked at Progress Plus as the interim marketing director in 1990 followed by serving three other chambers including executive vice president in Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce. She is a life-long resident of Inver Grove Heights.

After working together for more than 15 years in the chamber of commerce industry, Dowell Stute and Associates was founded in 2007 to provide professional management services to business-based non-profit organizations, associations and business partners. Contact 651.221.0580 or www.dowellstute.com for more information.

What is Progress Plus? The public/private partnership is designed to accommodate planned development in Inver Grove Heights and South St. Paul. Progress Plus is a charitable foundation of the River Heights Chamber of Commerce and seats mayors, city officials, chamber of commerce officials and business leaders in the community on its Board of Directors.

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