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**CENTER FOR WOMEN & ENTERPRISE ANNOUNCES NEW
VERIZON FOUNDATION GRANT**

Center for Women & Enterprise Partners with Verizon Foundation to increase access to entrepreneurial training in Boston and Worcester

BOSTON, MA –The Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE), a local non-profit organization dedicated to providing educational programming and training for women entrepreneurs, announced today that the Verizon Foundation has provided a \$10,000 grant to increase access to entrepreneurial training for women in the Greater Boston Area and Worcester, Massachusetts.

As job losses mount in Massachusetts, entrepreneurial women are taking their futures into their own hands by creating self-employment opportunities. To gain the business planning and management skills they need to succeed in this economy, women in record number are turning to the Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE). CWE is able to offer scholarships to income-eligible women seeking to start and grow small businesses through a new grant from the Verizon Foundation.

"The Verizon Foundation is pleased to partner with the Center for Women and Enterprise to help women gain the skills and confidence to build businesses that will provide them with a sustainable living. It is more critical than ever to empower people to explore their entrepreneurial spirit, and provide them with the guidance to start and nurture their own business," said Stephanie Lee, Verizon Regional Director of Public Affairs.

The Verizon Foundation grant program at CWE will focus on three strategies to equip women for success; preparation, planning, and follow-up. By assessing entrepreneurial readiness through a four-week Visioning course, women determine if small business ownership is a good fit for them. Through the intensive, 14-week Business Planning: Getting Started course, aspiring entrepreneurs work through the nuts and bolts of developing their own comprehensive business plans. After launching their new businesses, women turn to CWE's one-on-one consulting and workshops to maximize profitability and overcome challenges to growth. To increase accessibility, classes are offered during daytime and evening hours.

"We have seen women transform their futures through entrepreneurship, and grow their small businesses even in this challenging economy. With the training and community of support that CWE provides, women are able to turn their dreams of entrepreneurship into a reality," said Susan Rittscher, President and CEO.

About the Center for Women & Enterprise

Established in 1995, the Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping women start and grow their own businesses. With offices in Boston and Worcester, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island, CWE provides education, training, technical assistance, legal counseling, and access to capital to ensure that all women, ***regardless of their economic status***, will have the opportunity to start and run their own businesses. CWE's focus is on helping women overcome the challenges they face in starting and growing businesses and, through sliding-scale scholarships, ensures equality of opportunity to economically disadvantaged women and single mothers. CWE does not discriminate based on gender or socioeconomic status. CWE is located on the Web at www.cweonline.org.

About the Verizon Foundation

The Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications, supports the advancement of literacy and K-12 education through its free educational Web site, Thinkfinity.org, and fosters awareness and prevention of domestic violence. In 2008, the Verizon Foundation awarded more than \$68 million in grants to nonprofit agencies in the U.S. and abroad. It also matched the charitable donations of Verizon employees and retirees, resulting in an additional \$26 million in combined contributions to nonprofits. Through Verizon Volunteers, one of the nation's largest employee volunteer programs, Verizon employees and retirees have volunteered more than 3 million hours of community service since 2000. For more information on the foundation, visit www.verizonfoundation.org.