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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 22, 2005

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State Farm® Service-Learning Practitioner Leadership Award Winner Announced

The National Youth Leadership Council and the State Farm Companies Foundation have announced that Barbara G. Shaiman, founder and executive director of Champions of Caring, in Villanova, Pa., has been selected to receive the 2006 State Farm Service-Learning Practitioner Leadership Award.

Inspired by her parents, Henry and Carola Greenspan, who are survivors of the Holocaust, Shaiman created the nonprofit Champions of Caring in 1995 to ensure that atrocities like the Holocaust never again happen to anyone. Champions of Caring offers three programs to encourage youths to become active leaders in their communities, focusing on issues of service, citizenship and social justice. The Champions of Caring Recognition program honors young people for service in their communities. The Ambassadors of Caring Leadership Program further prepares young people who have been recognized as Champions to become peer leaders for service and social entrepreneurship. Ambassadors plan and implement projects to address authentic community needs — such as hunger, nutrition, diversity, literacy, and violence — and make the projects sustainable by recruiting others to take over when they must move on. The Journey of Champions character-education and service-learning program offers curricula based on academic standards, which can be used in the classroom or after-school clubs to help students deal with issues of conflict resolution and violence prevention, social and emotional learning, civic engagement and social responsibility.

The State Farm Service-Learning Practitioner Leadership Award recognizes those practitioners who have equipped young people to lead and serve, both through their direct work with youths and by nurturing other practitioners to expand their service-learning skills and knowledge. This year's award will be presented to Shaiman on March 24 at The 17th Annual National Service-Learning Conference in Philadelphia.

About NYLC

NYLC has been at the center of community service and service-learning programs and policy development since 1983. It annually convenes The National Service-Learning Conference, which included participants from 50 states and 41 countries in 2005. NYLC also offers adult and youth trainings, runs model programs and develops service-learning curricula.

About Service-Learning

Service-learning is a teaching method that enriches learning by engaging students in meaningful service to their schools and communities by integrating the process with established learning objectives. It emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving, and tackles real issues such as hunger, ecological concerns and diversity.

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