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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**National Disability Institute Receives \$250,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to Support the Real Economic Impact Tour**

*First stop is 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mayor's Leadership Academy  
on Asset Development for Persons with Disabilities*

September 17, 2008 - San Antonio, Texas – The Bank of America Charitable Foundation today announced a donation of \$250,000 in support of the National Disability Institute's Real Economic Impact Tour, a coordinated effort by cities across the country to advance the economic freedom of Americans with disabilities and their families during the 2009 and 2010 tax seasons.

Launched by the National Disability Institute, the Internal Revenue Service Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and prominent disability groups, the Real Economic Impact Tour aims to assist more than 180,000 individuals with disabilities in 84 cities in obtaining volunteer-led tax preparation and securing more than \$136 million in Earned Income Tax Credit refunds.

“Bank of America is pleased to be part of this effort to help people with disabilities more effectively navigate our tax system, access tax preparation services and secure the benefits of the Earned Income Tax Credit,” said Andrew Plepler, president, Bank of America Charitable Foundation. “By continuing our support of organizations like the National Disability Institute, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation hopes to help individuals with disabilities preserve income and develop assets, and thereby build a better economic future for themselves and their families.”

The first stop of the Real Economic Impact Tour is at an event today hosted by Mayor Phil Hardberger of San Antonio – the Mayor's Leadership Academy on Asset Development for Persons with Disabilities co-sponsored by IRS SPEC, AT&T and Bank of America. During the two-day meeting, the City of San Antonio and 140 leaders from government, the disability and asset-building communities from 47 cities will share best practices, hear from national veteran groups and learn about new video phone technology to assist deaf taxpayers.

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“The Real Economic Impact Tour began four years ago and has helped more than 151,000 tax filers with disabilities receive in excess of \$136 million in refunds,” said Michael Morris, Director of the National Disability Institute. “We will be active in 84 cities for the 2009 tax filing season and expect to double our 2008 number of taxpayers with disabilities from 90,000 to more than 180,000.”

Dr. Johnette Hartnett, Director of the REI Tour for NDI expects the Tour to generate more than \$160 million in Earned Income Tax Credits and other refunds for the 2009 filing season.

“The tour is building a roadmap out of poverty for persons with disabilities through access to free tax preparation and other asset building opportunities,” said Dr. Hartnett. “Through financial support from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, AT&T and Darden Restaurants, a new footprint is being made empowering Americans with disabilities to further their economic self-sufficiency and independence.”

Leaders from VITA coalitions nationally will work together over the course of two days to design and implement a coordinated plan of action to advance the economic freedom of working Americans with disabilities and their families through participation in free tax preparation and other asset building strategies.

**Please visit our website at [www.reitour.org](http://www.reitour.org)**

### **About the National Disability Institute**

The National Disability Institute (NDI) is a national non-profit research and development organization that promotes income preservation and asset development for persons with disabilities nationwide. More information is available at [www.ndi-inc.org](http://www.ndi-inc.org).

### **About Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy**

Building on a long-standing tradition of investing in the communities it serves, Bank of America will embark in 2009 on a new, ten-year goal to donate \$2 billion to nonprofit organizations engaged in improving the health and vitality of their neighborhoods. Funded by Bank of America, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation gave more than \$200 million in 2007, making the bank the most generous financial institution in the world and the second largest donor of all U.S. corporations in cash contributions. Bank of America approaches giving through a national strategy called "neighborhood excellence" under which it works with local leaders to identify and meet the most pressing needs of individual communities. Through Team Bank of America, bank associate volunteers contributed more than 650,000 hours in 2007 to enhance the quality of life in their communities nationwide. For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, please visit [www.bankofamerica.com/foundation](http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation).