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WOMEN WORK!  
The National Network for Women's Employment

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***Single Mother Voter Engagement Project Creates Partnerships Nationwide***

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Women Work! The National Network for Women's Employment will partner with over thirty education and training organizations nationwide to launch the **Single Mother Voter Engagement Project** to encourage women, especially single mothers, to register and vote in the 2008 presidential election.

“Just 65% of women voted in the 2004 presidential election, leaving the concerns of more than 35 million women - *the majority of whom are single mothers and unmarried women* - out of the political discourse,” said Erin Currier, Vice President for Programs and Policy at Women Work!. “We have designed this initiative to ensure that the voices of *all women*, including single mothers, are heard in the upcoming election.”

Over the course of the next five months, Women Work!'s coordinated voter education and registration campaign will provide partner organizations everything they need to help their clients register and prepare to vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Many of these partner organizations already provide direct education and training services to single mothers in their area, giving them unique insight into the very real obstacles these women face.

Erin Mohan, Women Work!'s Director of Public Policy explained, “The goal of this project is not only to get women registered, but also to get them ready to vote by preparing them with information about the candidates, their voting rights, and what to expect on Election Day.” For this reason, the materials provided by Women Work! focus on addressing the barriers to voting experienced by single mothers and encourage *practical solutions* for overcoming those barriers.

Each partner organization will design and implement their own engagement strategy, utilizing access to one another, technical support, and materials provided by Women Work!. In this way, organizations gain the benefits of a national structure and Women Work! can access its partners' local expertise. The result is an effective, ground level initiative to help single mothers take part in the election process.

“If single mothers don't vote, their needs and concerns will not be met by elected officials,” said Nina Rehrig, New Choices/New Options Specialist at Northampton Community College in Pennsylvania and a partner of the project. “The challenges they face in preparing to vote and in reaching the polls should not mean that their voices and their needs go unheard.”

**The Single Mother Voter Engagement Project** is made possible by the generous support of the Barbara Lee Family Foundation.

**Women Work! The National Network for Women's Employment** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that advances economic justice and equality for women through education, advocacy and organizing. Since 1978, the Network has assisted more than 10 million women to successfully enter, re-enter and advance in the workforce. Through supporting, advocating and advancing women's economic self-sufficiency, Women Work! members strengthen families and communities.