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For Immediate Release  
January 24, 2008

## Plantation Named One of the Nation's *100 Best Communities for Young People* by America's Promise Alliance

*Competition Showcases Successful Efforts by U.S. Cities and Towns to Help Young People Succeed*

Plantation, FL – America's Promise Alliance (the Alliance), the nation's largest alliance dedicated to children and youth, in partnership with Capital One, today announced that Plantation has been named a winner of its 2008 *100 Best Communities for Young People (100 Best)* competition. The *100 Best* competition recognizes the 100 outstanding communities across America—large and small, rural and urban—that are the best places for young people to live and grow up. More than 300 communities in all 50 states applied for the honor this year. The 100 winning communities span 37 states.

Plantation was named one of the *100 Best* because of the City's wide ranging successful programs for young people. For example, the *Plantation Junior Woman's Club*, works with city departments to fund children's services and programs including youth events such as "Art in the Park." *4Kids of South Florida* creates safe houses for victims of neglect and abuse. Finally, the Plantation Fire Department partners with Plantation General Hospital on "Watch the Water, Watch the Kids," a communications campaign reminding parents to never leave their children unattended near any body of water. Since the campaign began six years ago no children have drowned. They also offer CPR for Schools, specifically designed to teach teachers, faculty and students how to recognize and appropriately respond to an emergency, with emphasis on younger ages.

"The prosperity of every community and this country depends on how well we care for our children and youth," said Marguerite W. Kondracke, president and CEO, America's Promise Alliance, "Although no place is perfect, when we have communities that make young people a priority and are working to make sure they stay in school and have all the resources necessary to lead healthy, productive lives, we must recognize them and by extension inspire other cities and towns to follow their lead."

"At Capital One, we are committed to building stronger communities, one neighborhood at a time," said Carolyn Berkowitz, Vice President of Community Affairs for Capital One. "That's why we're proud to partner with the Alliance on the *100 Best* competition to recognize the tremendous work in communities across the country to create environments where children and families have boundless opportunities as well as the support systems necessary to champion their growth and encourage their success."

The *100 Best* competition was first held in 2005. This year's winners were selected by a distinguished panel that included some of the nation's most well-known civic, business and nonprofit leaders such as: Gayle Manchin, first lady of West Virginia, United Way President Brian Gallagher, former Mayor of Denver and President of Webb Group International, Wellington Webb, Thomas Donohue, president and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Carol Coletta, president and CEO, CEOs for Cities, Christine James-Brown, president and CEO, the Child Welfare League of America, and Dr. Suzanne Morse, executive director of the Pew Partnership for Civic Change.

Mayor Rae Carole Armstrong states, "We are extremely pleased to be recognized as one of the Nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People. Plantation has always focused on programs and facilities to create 'a best community for young people.' Despite dramatic growth during the past 54 years, Plantation retains its hometown feel and sense of community that draws new families and retains the families of young people who grew up in the City. Plantation provides a broad cross section of recreational venues situated within award winning parks, a safe haven for our children to play, outstanding education opportunities for our children to learn and a stable economic base that supports numerous large and small corporations that provide the foundation for strong families."

All communities that completed entries in the *100 Best* competition were required to submit detailed information to the Alliance on existing community programs and initiatives that help deliver the Five Promises—resources identified by America's Promise as being critical to the development of healthy, successful children: caring adults; safe places; healthy start; effective education; and opportunities to help others; to their young people. Applicants were also asked to describe how different sectors of their community come together to deliver the Five Promises and specific efforts and programs developed to ensure that their young people graduate from high school prepared for college and/or the workforce. Each of these communities, regardless of whether they were selected as a winner, will be eligible to apply for \$300,000 in grants from the Alliance next month.

**For more details about the *100 Best* competition and to see a complete list of the 2008 winners, please visit [www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org).**

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### **About the America's Promise Alliance**

America's Promise Alliance is the nation's leader in forging a strong and effective partnership alliance comprised of corporations, nonprofit organizations, foundations, policymakers, advocacy and faith groups committed to ensuring that children receive the fundamental resources - the Five Promises - they need to lead successful, healthy and productive lives and build a stronger society. Building on the legacy of our founder General Colin Powell, the Alliance believes the success of our children is grounded in experiencing the Five Promises - caring adults; safe place; a healthy start; an effective education; and opportunities to help others - at home, in school and in the community. For more information on America's Promise Alliance visit: [www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org).

### **About Capital One**

Headquartered in McLean, Virginia, **Capital One Financial Corporation** ([www.capitalone.com](http://www.capitalone.com)) is a financial holding company, with 732 locations in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Texas

and Louisiana. Its principal subsidiaries, Capital One Bank, Capital One Auto Finance, Inc., and Capital One, N.A. offer a broad spectrum of financial products and services to consumers, small businesses and commercial clients. Capital One's subsidiaries collectively had \$83.3 billion in deposits and \$146.4 billion in managed loans outstanding as of September 30, 2007. Capital One, a Fortune 500 company, trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "COF" and is included in the S&P 100 index.