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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Microsoft awards more than \$88,000 in cash and software to Salem CyberSpace**

*Several elected representatives – including Salem Mayor Stanley Usovicz and State Representative John Keenan – celebrate grant at June 24 event led by Salem CyberSpace, North Shore Community Action Programs, Inc., The Boston Foundation, Microsoft executives and community leaders*

**Salem, Mass. – June 21, 2005** – In an effort to promote technology education and inclusion and help eliminate the digital divide in the Salem community, Microsoft announced today a grant to Salem CyberSpace, totaling more than \$88,000 in cash, software and curriculum.

“We are really excited and honored to be selected as one of only two nonprofits in the New England area this year to receive this grant from Microsoft,” said Salem CyberSpace Director Linda E. Saris. “We at Salem CyberSpace look forward to a long and productive relationship with Microsoft, as we work to advance our joint goals of helping underserved people unlock their potential through technology.”

Salem CyberSpace is part of the North Shore Community Action Programs (NSCAP). Based in Salem, Mass., the community technology learning center is dedicated to helping low-income and unemployed local residents learn new computer skills to effect positive change for themselves, their families and their communities. In 2004, Microsoft and the Boston Foundation – one of Salem CyberSpace’s largest financial supporters – developed a funding collaboration that enabled the Foundation to channel important funding support to organizations through Microsoft’s Unlimited Potential program. Salem CyberSpace was one of the organizations recommended for this funding.

“This grant to Salem CyberSpace will not only increase digital access and skills amongst the hardest to reach populations, but will also contribute to the development of a technologically-skilled workforce critical for the Boston economy,” said Boston Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer Paul Grogan.

Microsoft’s grant will be used by Salem CyberSpace to expand its work with diverse populations who lack access to computers or affordable training, including low-income populations, unemployed workers, immigrants, local youth and nonprofit staff members. In collaboration with NSCAP, Salem CyberSpace has also implemented computer training as part of the Transition to Work program, which brings technology to homeless mothers living in transitional and emergency housing north of Boston.

“I am thrilled that Microsoft has recognized the wonderful work that Salem CyberSpace is doing in the community,” said Senate Majority Leader Frederick E. Berry (D-Peabody). “Computer literacy is essential in today’s world. This new partnership between Salem CyberSpace and Microsoft will help more of my constituents acquire the skills they need to succeed in today’s economy.”

Additionally, CTCnet – a U.S.-based network of over 1,000 organizations providing advocacy and resources to its member community technology centers – has chosen Salem CyberSpace as an official field tester for Microsoft’s community technology center curriculum. In conjunction with Microsoft and CTCNet, Salem CyberSpace tested the curriculum and adapted the Microsoft Office student manual for diverse learners. Salem CyberSpace presented its results with four other Unlimited Potential award recipients at CTCnet’s annual conference in Cleveland on June 18.

“Microsoft has long believed that inside each and every person there is great potential – for many, however, economic and cultural issues impede their abilities to harness this power and achieve their goals,” said Microsoft New England Government Affairs Manager Brian Burke. “That is why we created our Unlimited Potential program, which has provided more than \$37 million in cash and software to community organizations throughout Massachusetts since 2000. Salem CyberSpace works tirelessly to help Salem’s underserved residents realize their full potential. Giving the resources is the easy part, but working hands-on to help people transform their lives like Salem CyberSpace does everyday is where the real magic occurs. We feel privileged to be a part of these efforts.”

On June 24, Salem CyberSpace and NSCAP will host a private event to highlight the achievements of its students and members. This event will be held at Strega Restaurant, 94 Lafayette Street. In addition to Salem CyberSpace representatives and local business and community leaders, several elected officials – including City of Salem Mayor Stanley Usovicz and State Representative John Keenan – will join Microsoft New England Government Affairs Manager Brian Burke to support the event.

“Salem CyberSpace has provided much needed after-school programs for the teens living in the Salem Point neighborhood,” said City of Salem Mayor Stanley Usovicz. “In a short time, Salem CyberSpace has become an integral part of our community, collaborating with a wide range of city organizations including the Salem Public Schools, Salem YMCA, Salem Academy, Salem Park and Recreation, Peabody Essex Museum and the Family Self-Sufficiency Center. We believe that Salem will become a model for partnerships in other communities.”

Microsoft takes great pride in its community involvement in the New England area. Since 2004, Microsoft has provided more than \$37 million in cash, software and technology curriculum to Massachusetts organizations, and expects to announce nearly \$2 million more through the end of 2005. This grant to Salem CyberSpace is one of four donations made to New England-area nonprofits through Microsoft’s Unlimited Potential program. Microsoft donates cash, software and curriculum to community technology centers in 89 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America – and along with the continued development of innovative technologies and partnerships, Microsoft is expected to help broaden digital inclusion and bring the benefits of technology and technology skills training to one quarter of a billion underserved people by 2010. A complete list of recipients can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/mscorp/citizenship/overview/uprecipients.asp>.

“As computers become more and more integrated into our daily lives, and particularly our working lives, places like Salem CyberSpace provide an invaluable service to anyone looking to improve their job skills and pay,” said U.S. Representative John Tierney. “With affordable prices and small class sizes, Salem CyberSpace can accommodate adult students with diverse learning styles.”

### **About Salem CyberSpace and North Shore Community Action Programs**

Founded in 2002, Salem CyberSpace provides technology training and education to help effect positive change in the lives of its clients, their families and their communities. With programs such as CyberYouth – the nonprofit’s academic tutoring and digital arts-based experiential learning program for middle and high school students – Salem CyberSpace helps low-income and unemployed people build self-confidence through improved technical, teamwork and leadership skills.

Located in downtown Salem, Salem CyberSpace works in collaboration with six other community agencies including Salem Harbor Community Development Corporation, North Shore Career Center, Salem Access Television, Point Neighborhood Association, Salem Public Schools Title 1 Program and Grace Church. For more information, visit [www.salemcyberspace.org](http://www.salemcyberspace.org).

### **About North Shore Community Action Programs (NSCAP)**

Established in 1965 under the Economic Opportunity Act, North Shore Community Action Programs (NSCAP) is dedicated to helping low-income people empower themselves as they move towards self-sufficiency and to motivate the larger community to be more responsive to the needs of low-income people. NSCAP is the designated anti-poverty agency serving Salem, Peabody, Danvers, Beverly and 25 other cities and towns north of Boston. For more information, visit [www.northshorecap.org](http://www.northshorecap.org).

### **About Microsoft Community Affairs**

Microsoft and its employees have long recognized the importance of being engaged in supporting communities around the world. Last year the company donated \$48 million in cash and \$362 million in software to 8,000 nonprofit organizations. While a majority of the company’s community investments are made in support of Unlimited Potential, a global program that supports community technology centers in IT skills training, the company also makes software available to improve the use of technology by nonprofit organizations. Microsoft products are available to qualified organizations at <http://www.techsoup.org>.

More information on Microsoft’s community investments can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/unlimitedpotential/>.

### **About Microsoft**

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ “MSFT”) is the worldwide leader in software, services and Internet technologies for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software — any time, any place and on any device.

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