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NAPERVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLING \$104,683 FROM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT FOR CHILDRENS CAMP

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, today made the following announcement:

PHILIP E. RICHARDSON, 53 (DOB: 7/1/53) of Naperville, Illinois, pleaded guilty yesterday afternoon in federal court in Rockford to five counts of mail fraud resulting from a scheme between April 2000 and April 2001 to embezzle \$104,683 from a non-profit organization.

The indictment alleged that Richardson, an officer and sole shareholder of Richardson Organization, Ltd., an Illinois corporation engaged in real estate and construction activities, agreed to manage the construction of a building project for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (“LOMC”), a non-profit corporation which operates a youth camp near Oregon, Illinois. According to the indictment, Richardson obtained payments for subcontractors from LOMC based on invoices which falsely inflated the amounts due to certain subcontractors. The indictment further alleged Richardson falsely endorsed LOMC checks made payable to a subcontractor and deposited the checks into the Richardson Organization bank account. In addition, the indictment alleged that Richardson failed to fully pay certain subcontractors, and used money from LOMC for personal and business purposes unrelated to the project.

Sentencing for Richardson will be conducted on January 19, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. Each the five counts of mail fraud carries a maximum sentence of up to twenty years of imprisonment, and a fine of up to \$250,000. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by the Rockford office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Michael D. Love.

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