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**200 EMPLOYEES OF NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS CANADA
WILL STEP-OUTSIDE THE OFFICE TO VOLUNTEER ON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP DAY**

Dorval, Quebec (April 25, 2008) - On Friday, April 25th, 200 employees of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada will give back to the community by volunteering at 11 local community centers. On Community Partnership Day, Novartis employees around the world spend the day volunteering at non-profit community groups. This special day was established to recognize the stronger community presence created by the merger of Sandoz and Ciba Geigy that founded Novartis in 1996.

Employees will be washing windows, painting, sorting food and clothing, and preparing meals. The community groups where head-office employees will be volunteering include the West Island Palliative Care Residence, the Omega Centre, the Welcome Hall Mission, Share the Warmth, Harvest Montreal, Centre Multi-Ressources de Lachine and the West Island Assistance Fund.

"Novartis employees have come to *The Teapot 50 Plus Centre* for several years now to help us with our annual volunteer recognition event. They contribute to making the event a success by doing everything from decorating the room, helping with the meal and organizing games", says Lynda Barret, centre manager. "It's wonderful to have them with us and we appreciate their enthusiasm and generous spirit."

In addition, Novartis head office employees will be holding a charity car wash on company grounds to raise funds for the Centre Multi-ressources de Lachine, a seniors' support centre.

"Our business of discovering and developing new medicines is based on helping people," said David Meek, President of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada. "Our Community Day allows our employees an additional opportunity to help in another way -- directly in the communities where they live and work."

Community Partnership Day is one of several initiatives that Novartis employees get involved in. Every year in September, a team of amateur cyclists from Novartis ride from Toronto to Montreal to raise funds for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Last year, the four-day, 600-km event, entitled "Ride for the Cure", raised more than \$90,000 for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. In fact, Novartis has won the CIBC Corporate Spirit Team Award three years in a row (2005-2007) for the Corporate Team that raised the most donations for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation

About Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., a leader in the healthcare field, is committed to the discovery, development and marketing of innovative products to improve the well-being of all Canadians. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. conducts hundreds of clinical trials across the country seeking new treatments for cardiovascular disease, oncology, diabetes, cancer, ophthalmology and organ transplantation. In 2007, the Company invested close to \$86 million in research and development. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. employs more than 800

people in Canada and its headquarters are located in Dorval, Québec. In addition to Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., the Novartis Group in Canada consists of Novartis Animal Health Canada Inc., Novartis Consumer Health Canada Inc., CIBA Vision Canada Inc., and Sandoz Canada Inc. For further information about Novartis Canada, please consult www.novartis.ca.

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