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## **Public Allies CEO Paul Schmitz named to The NonProfit Times “Power & Influence” List**

*Milwaukee (Aug. 2, 2010)* – Paul Schmitz, Chief Executive Officer of Public Allies, has been named to The NonProfit Times’ “Power & Influence Top 50,” a list that recognizes the nonprofit sector’s top achievers and thinkers. Public Allies is a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Milwaukee.

The NonProfit Times “Top 50” list recognizes the 50 most influential executives in the sector for the previous 12 months. It’s based on nominations submitted by the The NonProfit Times’ staff and contributing editors, former nominees, and others connected with the field. This year’s selections were weighted toward the technology, social entrepreneur, and public service trends, according to the magazine. Schmitz is among the youngest leaders on the list. He is also one of two from Milwaukee, along with Peter Goldberg, CEO of the Alliance for Children & Families.

Schmitz, a Milwaukee native, has served as the Public Allies CEO since 2000. He started his career at Public Allies as a college student who proposed expanding the new program, then based in Washington, D.C., to Milwaukee. Public Allies Milwaukee was launched in 1994 under his leadership. By the time he was named CEO in 2000, the organization operated programs in nine communities nationwide. Today, Public Allies is in 21 communities and has graduated more than 3,200 emerging leaders from its 10-month apprenticeship program.

"I am glad that our work at Public Allies is gaining greater influence," Schmitz said upon receiving the recognition. "More people are seeing that pipelines into public service need to better reflect and represent our communities, and that we get better, more lasting results when we engage communities in solving problems, rather than just serving them."

At the core of the Public Allies mission is its leadership development program for young adults who have the ambition to make positive change in their communities. Through a paid apprenticeship, team projects, and training, they are given the opportunity to have an impact in the areas of youth development and education, health, poverty, and the environment. The Public Allies leadership model is distinguished by the diversity of its participants – the Allies have averaged 67% people of color, 60% women, 50% college graduates and 15% LGBT – and its commitment to strengthening a community by engaging residents and organizations to collaborate. A recently completed survey of Public Allies alumni revealed that 86% are continuing to pursue careers in nonprofit and public service.

The NonProfit Times has been compiling the list annually for 13 years. This is Schmitz's first appearance on the list. He is one of eight on the list who are based in the Midwest, and one of only 13 who work outside a top-10 major market. Among others named this year are Bill Gates, co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Steve Gunderson, President and CEO of the Council on Foundations and former U.S. Congressman from Wisconsin; Brian Gallagher, President and CEO of United Way Worldwide; Benjamin Jealous, President and CEO of the NAACP; Sterling Speirn, President and CEO of The WK Kellogg Foundation, and Jill Schumann, President and CEO of Lutheran Services in America.

Schmitz, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is a father of three who lives in Milwaukee. He is an active participant in the national service arena, having co-chaired the Obama Campaign's Civic Engagement Policy Group and served on President Obama's Transition Team, where he worked on the social innovation, nonprofit, and service agendas. Paul co-chairs Voices for National Service, a national coalition of national service programs, had chaired the Nonprofit Workforce Coalition, and has served on several other boards.

“Top 50” honorees will be recognized Sept. 23 at a gala event at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., with special guest speaker Arianna Huffington.

#### **About Public Allies**

Public Allies' mission is to advance new leadership to strengthen communities, nonprofits, and civic participation. We are motivated by our conviction that everyone can lead, and that lasting social change results when citizens of all backgrounds step up, take responsibility, and work together. Public Allies identifies talented and diverse young adults with a passion to make a difference and helps them turn that into a viable career path in community and public service

through a full-time program of paid apprenticeships at nonprofit organizations and intensive leadership training. Public Allies is based in Milwaukee, WI, supporting 21 sites across the country. Since its inception in 1992, it has graduated more than 3,200 Allies. For information, please visit [www.publicallies.org](http://www.publicallies.org) or contact our National Office.

**Public Allies communities**

Albuquerque; Baltimore; Chicago; Cincinnati; Connecticut; Delaware; Estes Park, Colo.; Indianapolis; Los Angeles; Miami; Milwaukee; New York City; Minneapolis/St. Paul; Raleigh-Durham; Orlando; Phoenix; Pittsburgh; San Antonio; San Francisco; Silicon Valley; Washington, D.C.

**Public Allies National Office**

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