



**For Immediate Release:**

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## **PAL Secret Santa Brings Holiday Spirit to Local Non-Profits** *ACCC surprises organizations with financial literacy grants*

Newton, MA – December 7, 2006 – This holiday season the credit counseling professionals of American Consumer Credit Counseling are giving back to its community partners in a new and unprecedented way. Since 2004, ACCC has given grants to organizations in the Boston area to recognize their commitment to improving financial literacy in the community. Through the Partnership for the Advancement of Financial Literacy (PAL), ACCC has issued nearly \$50,000 in grant money to various shelters, career centers and educational initiatives.

For the 2006 holidays, ACCC decided to reach out to its existing community partners that have shown long-term dedication to budget, credit and money management education. Over the past week, ACCC has presented “PAL Secret Santa Grants” to the Boston Rescue Mission, the Cambridge Corp of the Salvation Army, and the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans. Each of these esteemed organizations has collaborated with ACCC to hold on-site workshops and individual counseling sessions for more than two years.

Community Outreach Supervisor, Jessica Slate, presented two of the grants on behalf of ACCC and saw the results of her efforts first hand. “The growth that we’ve seen in our participants is amazing,” says Slate. “Coming to terms with one’s financial burdens is not an enviable task, especially around the holidays. I am truly proud to have had the opportunity to help our friends make a difference in their own financial lives.”

Each of the “PAL Secret Santa Grants” was given as a surprise to participants and program directors during regularly scheduled workshops. Grant recipients have agreed to utilize ACCC funds towards programs supporting financial literacy initiatives. For further details on the organizations involved with “PAL Secret Santa,” or to find photos from each event please visit [www.consumercredit.com/partners.htm](http://www.consumercredit.com/partners.htm).

**ABOUT ACCC:** American Consumer Credit Counseling (ACCC) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to empowering consumers to regain control of their lives through education, counseling and debt management. ACCC provides individuals with practical solutions for solving financial problems and recognizes that consumers’ financial difficulties are often not the result of poor spending habits, but more frequently from extenuating circumstances beyond their control. As one of the nation’s leading providers of financial education and credit counseling services, ACCC works with consumers to help them with the best plan of action to reduce their debt and regain financial stability. For more information or to access free financial education resources log on to [www.consumercredit.com](http://www.consumercredit.com).