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MINNEAPOLIS ARTIST'S SELF-PORTRAIT ON DISPLAY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
Exhibit Marks Anniversary for Disability Services

Minneapolis, MN -- Gary Seal is one of 70 artists from around the U.S. whose self-portraits will be on display in Washington, D.C. during a special event on September 13 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of ANCOR, the American Network of Community Options and Resources. The artworks will be on display during the invitation-only special event, being held at the Smithsonian's Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture. Gary and his brother Scott will attend the event.

"This exhibit really brings the voices of the people with disabilities we serve into our celebration," said ANCOR CEO Renee L. Pietrangelo. "The remarkable energy, diversity and creativity of the pieces underscore the value of supporting community integration and self-expression for everyone, including individuals with disabilities."

Gary has developmental disabilities and is supported in his art and daily living activities through residential and support services provided by Wingspan Life Resources. He has been creating works of art for many years and attends The Interact Center for Performing and Visual Arts on a daily basis. His abstract work focuses on the two-dimensional, utilizing mainly oil pastels and acrylic. He makes up his compositions as he goes along, often changing or obscuring more literal imagery beneath layers of color, and

redefining top and bottom for a picture several times. Gary's work has been shown at several venues around the Twin Cities, including the Kenwood Café in Minneapolis, the 2004 Visible Fringe Festival, and in the Minneapolis Foundation's *Possibilities* exhibition. Gary says, "I like to make art – it's something to do."

ABOUT WINGSPAN LIFE RESOURCES. Wingspan Life Resources is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping our most vulnerable citizens to be fully engaged in their community and to lead full, happy lives. Wingspan currently serves 100 people with developmental disabilities in 24 homes throughout the Twin Cities, 10-15 people through in-home services, and 60-70 adults from the Hmong community who are elderly or have disabilities, at our adult day care center in St. Paul. Find us on the web at www.wingspanlife.org.

ABOUT ANCOR. ANCOR is the national association representing more than 800 providers of community supports and services to more than 500,000 people with disabilities. The association offers federal advocacy, professional and organizational development and access to innovation and best practices for and on behalf of its members.

