

For Immediate Release



A HOUSEHOLD STAFFING ALLIANCE

APNA's 2008 Agency of the Year *Houston's Morningside Nannies*

(October 31, 2008) – *The Association of Premier Nanny Agencies (APNA)* is proud to honor Houston's *Morningside Nannies* with APNA's 2008 Agency of the Year award. Twenty five years ago, Pat Cascio founded the first agency in Houston to specialize in nanny placement, and she is still on the job. Like many in the industry, Pat started her business because, "I needed in-home care for my children, and I wasn't comfortable with the screening provided by what were then known as 'domestic agencies'."

Now Pat and other staffing agencies have access to an arsenal of professional background checkers and computerized court files to assist them in screening household staff. **However, she says she still scrutinizes all applicants with the time-tested question, "Would I hire this nanny to care for my own children?"**

Seasoned household staffing agencies know how important it is to meet each job candidate in person. "Nanny services that operate only online are becoming more popular," says Ginger Swift, the APNA board member who oversaw the selection of the 2008 Agency of the Year. **"But the people who run most online-only job services never meet the applicants, and they do not conduct the type of background check an agency like Morningside Nannies would require before sending someone to your home."**

Says Pat of her award, "I had considered vying for APNA's Agency of the Year award in the past, but I wasn't sure my agency would be special enough to gain this national honor. But this year, I celebrated 25 years in the industry, and I retired from my eight-year post as the International Nanny Association President. When I reflected on the contribution I have made to our industry, I felt more confident."

"Because household staffing laws vary from state to state, agency owners such as Pat help us set industry standards, so we can provide a nationwide network of reliable agencies," says APNA President Annie Davis. **"To be an APNA member, agencies must put their contracts, applications and business practices up for scrutiny by their peers. Parents who want to make sure they are dealing with a quality nanny service should look for the APNA seal.** I am extremely proud of all our members, but Pat deserves to be recognized for the years she has dedicated to this industry. She has more than earned the respect of her colleagues and associates. Pat, as all members, has always put the welfare of children first."

Contacts:

- **Pat Cascio, Morningside Nannies**, Houston, Texas (713)526-3989
pcascio@morningsidenannies.com, www.morningsidenannies.com/index.html
- **Annie Davis, APNA President**, (206) 227-1690, annied@drizzle.com
www.anihouseholdstaffing.com
- Go to www.theAPNA.org to find an APNA agency in your community and valuable information for families and people seeking household jobs

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