



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation (professionally managed by **DRAKE & COMPANY**) has won the Award of Excellence in the 2006 Associations Advance American Awards program, a national competition sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE)

The Foundation received the award for its 2005 Trees for Troops program conducted in a partnership with FedEx Corp and state affiliates of the National Christmas Tree Association.



Through the Trees for Troops program, FedEx Freight delivered more than donated 4,300 Real Christmas Trees to military stationed in the Middle East and to military families at five U.S. bases. More than 300 NCTA members in 17 states donated the trees and FedEx Freight donated more than 4,600 miles of shipping in the U.S. and FedEx Express donated the international flight for the overseas bases.

Now in its 16th year, the Associations Advance America Awards program recognizes associations that propel America forward with innovative projects in education, skills training, standards-setting, business and social innovation, knowledge creating, citizenship and community service.

Earlier this month, the Public Relations Society of American (PRSA) presented a 2006 Silver Anvil Award of Excellence to NCTA, the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, FedEx, Ketchum Public Relations and **DRAKECo** for the 2005 Trees for Troops program.