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Worldwide ERC® and Primacy Relocation Name 2006's "Best Cities for Relocating Families"

ORLANDO, Florida – [May 31, 2006] - Worldwide ERC®, the association for global employee relocation, and Primacy Relocation® announced that Louisville, Kentucky; Evansville, Indiana; and Athens, Georgia, are 2006's Best Cities for Relocating Families™ among large, medium and small U.S. metropolitan areas. The two organizations worked with Bert Sperling of Sperling's BestPlaces to rate cities based on those factors – short-term and long-term – that determine the likelihood of a successful relocation. [complete list at end of document]

Worldwide ERC Executive Vice President H. Cris Collie, CAE, said, "Relocating the right talent to the right location is a critical element in today's business strategy, and spouse and family concerns play a significant role in whether the employee accepts an offer to move. So addressing a combination of family needs makes for a more successful relocation."

A number of measurable features can affect the ease with which a family can move to a city and the ease of settling into a new life there. Traditional factors such as tax rates and average home cost and appreciation are combined with more diverse cost of living and quality of life variables – like the ability to qualify for in-state tuition, the service quality of local utilities, auto taxes, per-capita volunteerism, and the quantity of fun, family-friendly events and venues.

More subtle indicators are also included in the study. Fee and occupancy rates for temporary housing and mini-storage help define the ease of a transition to a large city. The quality and availability of elder-care and assisted-living reflect a city's investment in the needs of modern, multi-generational families.

New factors this year include improved data on commute times – which now track information about daily commutes between two metro areas – and significantly expanded data on the cost of temporary housing units big enough to accommodate an entire family.

"Even the best-planned employee relocation policy can't ease all the burden of unfamiliar local bureaucratic hassles and unexpected costs," said Michelle Vallejo, SCRP, GMS, Primacy America' president. "So we seek to inform the relocation industry and the transferees it serves on the myriad, seemingly unconnected issues that contribute to the success or failure of individual families' relocations."

ERC and Primacy announced the results of the survey at the National Relocation Conference in Orlando. Full results of the survey are available at www.primacy.com and will be published in Worldwide ERC's *MOBILITY* magazine this summer.

Worldwide ERC[®] is the membership association of choice for more than 10,000 corporate and government relocation managers, real estate companies, appraisers, and a range of service firms and individuals from industries that address relocation-related workforce issues.

Primacy Relocation is a full-service relocation provider, addressing both U.S.-based and global needs for companies around the world, including home sales, destination services, household goods move management, program administration, and international assignment (expatriate) support. In addition to its Memphis headquarters, Primacy has offices in Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Omaha, Sacramento and Washington, D.C.; as well as Basel, Geneva, Lausanne, London, Montréal, Munich, Neuchâtel, Paris, Shanghai and Zurich. Primacy is online (in eight languages) at www.primacy.com.

Ranking charts are found on the following page

2006 Best Cities for Relocating Families - Worldwide ERC & Primacy Relocation

Large Metro Areas

Pop. 500,000+

1. Louisville	KY
2. Austin-San Marcos	TX
3. Denver	CO
4. Nashville	TN
5. San Jose	CA
6. Washington	DC
7. Baltimore	MD
8. Albuquerque	NM
9. Knoxville	TN
10. Harrisburg	PA
11. Baton Rouge	LA
12. Monmouth-Ocean	NJ
13. Atlanta	GA
14. Oklahoma City	OK
15. Colorado Springs	CO
16. Tulsa	OK
17. Memphis	TN
18. Dallas	TX
19. Birmingham	AL
20. San Francisco	CA
21. Boston	MA
22. Nassau-Suffolk	NY
23. New York	NY
24. Middlesex-Somerset- Hunterdon	NJ
25. Houston	TX
26. Orange County	CA
27. Jersey City	NJ
28. Columbia	SC
29. Greenville-Spartanburg	SC
30. Raleigh-Durham- Chapel Hill	NC
31. Las Vegas	NV
32. El Paso	TX
33. Salt Lake City	UT
34. Phoenix-Mesa	AZ
35. Pittsburgh	PA
36. Seattle-Bellevue	WA
37. Oakland	CA
38. San Antonio	TX
39. Norfolk-Virginia Beach	VA
40. Greensboro- Winston-Salem	NC
41. Mobile	AL
42. Bakersfield	CA
43. Cincinnati	OH
44. Philadelphia	PA
45. Indianapolis	IN
46. McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	TX
47. Buffalo-Niagara Falls	NY
48. Albany-Schenectady-Troy	NY
49. Wilmington-Newark	DE
50. Little Rock	AR

Mid-Sized Metro Areas

Pop. 250,000 – 500,000

1. Evansville	IN
2. Lexington	KY
3. Fayetteville	AR
4. Boulder-Longmont	CO
5. Burlington	VT
6. Lafayette	LA
7. Erie	PA
8. Fort Collins	CO
9. Clarksville	TN
10. Montgomery	AL
11. Asheville	NC
12. Boise City	ID
13. Olympia	WA
14. Saginaw	MI
15. Madison	WI
16. Huntsville	AL
17. Jackson	MS
18. Columbus	GA
19. Fort Smith	AR
20. Appleton-Oshkosh	WI
21. Fort Wayne	IN
22. Springfield	MO
23. Eugene-Springfield	OR
24. Bremerton	WA
25. Trenton	NJ
26. Hickory-Morganton	NC
27. Johnson City-Kingsport	TN
28. Huntington	WV
29. Shreveport	LA
30. Lynchburg	VA
31. Provo	UT
32. Waco	TX
33. Brazoria	TX
34. Binghamton	NY
35. Salem	OR
36. Chattanooga	TN
37. Augusta	GA
38. Macon	GA
39. Portland	ME
40. Des Moines	IA
41. Hamilton-Middletown	OH
42. Charleston	WV
43. Atlantic-Cape May	NJ
44. Utica-Rome	NY
45. Santa Barbara	CA
46. Lancaster	PA
47. Fayetteville	NC
48. New London	CT
49. San Luis Obispo	CA
50. South Bend	IN

Small Metro Areas

Pop. 50,000 – 250,000

1. Athens	GA
2. Grand Junction	CO
3. Yolo Co. (Davis)	CA
4. Hattiesburg	MS
5. Bellingham	WA
6. Missoula	MT
7. Cheyenne	WY
8. Bryan-College Station	TX
9. Iowa City	IA
10. Fargo-Moorhead	ND
11. Corvallis	OR
12. Charlottesville	VA
13. Grand Forks	ND
14. Jacksonville	NC
15. Victoria	TX
16. Lake Charles	LA
17. Lafayette	IN
18. Albany	GA
19. Auburn-Opelika	AL
20. St. Joseph	MO
21. Monroe	LA
22. Lawton	OK
23. Jackson	TN
24. Decatur	AL
25. Florence	SC
26. Dothan	AL
27. Tyler	TX
28. Panama City	FL
29. Enid	OK
30. Joplin	MO
31. Jonesboro	AR
32. Hagerstown	MD
33. State College	PA
34. Texarkana	TX-AR
35. Tuscaloosa	AL
36. Alexandria	LA
37. Fort Walton Beach	FL
38. Bloomington	IN
39. Wichita Falls	TX
40. Columbia	MO
41. Owensboro	KY
42. Florence	AL
43. Vineland-Millville	NJ
44. Lawrence	KS
45. Sumter	SC
46. Dover	DE
47. Rocky Mount	NC
48. Bangor	ME
49. Abilene	TX
50. Casper	WY

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