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MEDIA CONTACT:
Hannah Hardage
hhardage@wilsonassoc.com
WILSON ASSOCIATES
+1-214-521-6753

THE WILSON FOUNDATION APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John Canterbury spearheads mission to improve education and healthcare for children of Limpopo Province, South Africa

DALLAS, Oct 11, 2011 – The Wilson Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization founded by Trisha Wilson, President and CEO of international interior architectural design firm Wilson Associates, appointed a new Executive Director, John J. Canterbury III, to lead the organization's mission to improve the quality of life for the disadvantaged children of Limpopo Province, South Africa through various healthcare, education and community outreach programs.

"John brings strength, compassion and vision to The Wilson Foundation, and we are privileged to have such a capable, connected leader on mission with us," said Trisha Wilson. "His business background will turn our dreams into initiatives, our financial support into real change."

Founded in 1997, The Wilson Foundation's work in Limpopo Province focuses on the town of Vaalwater, a beautiful area of South Africa that has been devastated by extreme poverty, unemployment and an HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has left a staggering number of orphans in its wake. Mr. Canterbury will work with individuals, companies, foundations, local NGOs and community leaders to meet the needs of this vulnerable community and help restore their economic and physical vitality.

In 2003, the foundation built Waterberg Academy, a private community school that offers local students an elementary through high school education. Each year, the foundation provides scholarships to a number of deserving children. Funding covers their tuition, uniforms, supplies, field trips, extra-curricular activities and after-school tutoring programs. The foundation also funds teacher salaries and continuing education programs. Recently, the foundation's parent company, Wilson Associates, built and designed a new Library, Science and Technology Center to further develop the students' educational potential.

From a health perspective, the foundation helps fund The Waterberg Welfare Society, which provides medical and emotional support for individuals infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The society has an extensive education and awareness program that teaches various prevention methods and fights to dispel cultural myths surrounding the virus. One such program, Prevention of Mother to Child

Transmissions (PMTCT) counsels women during pregnancy and teaches them how to prevent the transmission of the virus following the baby's birth, given 25-35 percent of pregnant women in Southern Africa are HIV positive.

"Education can't change the past, but it can change the future," said Mr. Canterbury. "July Letsebe, an HIV positive Waterberg Welfare Society counselor and previous patient, challenged me to ask myself, 'AIDS: Am I Doing Something?' His words make me want to be a man of action; a man of conviction; a man who can make a difference one child at a time."

Letsebe will speak at Wilson Associates' annual Point of Excellence Awards Luncheon at the Ritz-Carlton Dallas on November 17, 2011, in an effort to educate and engage the Dallas design community about The Wilson Foundation's future initiatives.

About The Wilson Foundation
For more information on The Wilson Foundation's past, present and future plans for South Africa, visit www.thewilsonfoundation.org or call +1-214-521-6753. The foundation accepts gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations.

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About Wilson Associates
Specializing in interior architectural design, Wilson Associates was founded in 1971 and today employs more than 300 professionals in their headquarters in Dallas and offices in New York, Los Angeles, Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Shanghai and an associate office in Cochin, India. Blending experience, innovation and solid business principles, Wilson Associates continually sets the design standard at some of the world's most well-known addresses. The firm creates interiors for world-class hotels, restaurants, clubs, casinos and high-end residential projects, offering a full range of design services, from space planning to furniture installation, including custom product design. Wilson Associates is consistently ranked as one of the top two firms in the hospitality design industry worldwide.

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