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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Local Nonprofit's Champions List Grows

**Hartford, CT---** Our Piece of the Pie<sup>®</sup>, Inc. (OPP<sup>®</sup>) has welcomed Mickey Herbert in its prestigious Champions Council. For more than 35 years, OPP has been serving urban youth through mentoring, education, and employment programs and services in Hartford. In an effort to enhance and expand its services to other communities, the nonprofit enlisted support of several long-standing local leaders, known as the Champions Council. Peter Kelly, Ed Budd and Don Wilson joined OPP's Champions Council as inaugural members in February of 2011.



**Mickey Herbert** recently retired as both the President and CEO of ConnectiCare, a \$1 billion health plan in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, and as Executive Vice President of ConnectiCare's parent company, EmblemHealth, a \$10 billion company in New York City.

In 2006, Mr. Herbert co-chaired the Connecticut Health Insurance Policy Council formed to create recommendations on how to improve the state's health care system. In 2007, he was appointed to the HealthFirst Connecticut Authority commissioned by the Connecticut General Assembly to research ways to provide affordable health care coverage to all Connecticut citizens. In 2011, he was appointed to a three-year term to the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange Board of Directors, the board charged with providing health care access to all Connecticut citizens.

Prior to joining ConnectiCare in 2005, Mr. Herbert was the founder and CEO for 22 years of Physicians Health Services, a health plan serving Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. He serves on the Board of Advisors of AudaxHealth, a company born from social networking and gaming that is connecting the dots between formal healthcare, lifestyle choices and disease prevention. He is currently the Chairman of Patient Care, a national patient advocacy firm and engaged as an industry expert with the Strategic Health Perspectives team of Harris Interactive, the national polling organization. He also served for seven years on the board of UroCor, Inc., a publicly-traded urological laboratory.

Mr. Herbert has more than 35 years of experience in health care. In 1971, he began working for InterStudy and its CEO, Dr. Paul Ellwood, the nation's leading proponent of a marketplace approach to health care delivery. During his six years at InterStudy, he worked with Ellwood to convince the Nixon administration, and a Democrat-controlled Congress, to promote the development of new health plans. In 1976, Mr. Herbert moved to the Bridgeport, Connecticut area and founded Physicians Health Services, which he led as its CEO until it was successfully sold over two decades later to a national health plan.

Herbert also served for eight seasons as CEO and majority owner of the Bridgeport Bluefish Baseball Club, an independent minor league baseball team. He was one of three officers of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball, and also a general partner of the Philadelphia Barrage, a charter team of Major League Lacrosse.

Mickey Herbert earned a B.A. at Swarthmore College and an M.B.A. at Harvard University. He is a graduate of an HMO Fellowship Training Program at the Wharton School and was a Senior Fellow of the Executive Program in Managed Care at the University of Missouri. He has an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Bridgeport.

Our Piece of the Pie is thrilled to welcome its newest Champions Council members and looks forward to expanding this group within the next few months.