



**Linda H. Vespa Appointed Executive Director, Carolinas' Carrousel, Inc.**

**CHARLOTTE, NC – June 23, 2008** - The Carolinas' Carrousel, Inc. Board of Directors has appointed veteran marketer Linda Healy Vespa as its new Executive Director. Carolinas' Carrousel is the non-profit, which each year since 1947 has mounted the Carolinas' Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Prior to joining Carolinas' Carrousel, Vespa was marketing director for Charlotte Arrangements. Her prior experience includes working for *Creative Loafing* as a columnist and editor, and as marketing communications manager for US LEC and Verbatim Corporation.

The Guttenberg, New Jersey native holds a BA in organizational communication from Charlotte, NC's Queens University. She is active in the Christopher Columbus Italian Club of Charlotte.

The Carolinas' Thanksgiving Day Parade has evolved over more than six decades as a regional tradition and highlight of the Holiday Season. Founded in 1947 by four local businessmen to attract holiday shoppers to uptown Charlotte, the Thanksgiving week events have become so much more. The Parade and its ancillary events are produced by Carolinas' Carrousel, Inc., an independent, volunteer, non-profit, charitable organization.

Carolinas' Carrousel is committed to enhancing regional area's community life through quality family oriented entertainment. The Parade officially announces and celebrates the beginning of the Holiday Season. In addition, it promotes excellence through awards to area high school students and marching bands. The Carolinas' Carrousel also exists to offer business, industry, and the local citizenry the opportunity of participating in showcasing the region and encouraging academic excellence in the future leaders of the area.

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