



PARNASSUS
INVESTMENTS

National Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mutual Attraction: Parnassus Adds MicroVest to its Socially Responsible Portfolio

Bethesda, MD (March 21 2007)— MicroVest is pleased to announce its second investment by a socially responsible mutual fund, coming less than three months after its first mutual fund investment. The Parnassus Equity Income Fund, based in San Francisco (CA), became MicroVest I, LP's first American mutual fund investor with a two-year, \$500,000 note subscription.

Dana Halberg, a member of MicroVest's Board of Directors, said, "We are excited to have such a highly respected mutual fund as an investor. It seems our two companies share certain core values and similar investment philosophies. Clearly, this investment shows that Parnassus believes in commercial microfinance as an investible asset class. As a professional asset manager I'm thrilled to see US mutual fund companies utilizing the value of these assets for their investors."

Historically, mutual funds have not regularly invested in the microfinance industry. Parnassus was proactive in seeking out this investment in microfinance as it matches the mutual fund's objective for additional community investing.

Up to 2% of the Parnassus Mutual Funds' net assets are invested with intermediaries dedicated to community investing. Parnassus selected MicroVest because of the management team's on-the-ground expertise in the microfinance field, and the thorough process used to screen their loan portfolio. The MicroVest I, LP financials and performance goals are in line with the community investing goals at Parnassus, intending to provide shareholders a competitive return and positively impacting communities worldwide.

Todd Ahlsten, Portfolio Manager for the Parnassus Equity Income Fund, said, "Parnassus Investments has been committed to investing in community development since the founding of the firm. We view the MicroVest subscription as an opportunity to help expand access to financial services and earn returns for our shareholders in a responsible way."

About Parnassus Investments: Founded in 1984, Parnassus Investments was one of the pioneers in socially responsible investing. Parnassus aims to create shareholder value by investing in undervalued companies with long-term growth prospects. As part of the fundamental research process, Parnassus seeks companies that respect the environment, have ethical business dealings, treat their employees fairly and demonstrate good community involvement. Based in San Francisco, Parnassus manages over \$1.3 billion in assets under management (as of December 31, 2006).

Before investing, an investor should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the fund and should read the prospectus carefully which contains this information. The prospectus is on the Parnassus website, at www.parnassus.com or you can get one by calling (800) 999-3505. For more information on Parnassus, please contact Nancy Reyes at: nancy.reyes@parnassus.com

About MicroVest: MicroVest I, LP (MicroVest) is a \$25 million private equity fund providing debt and equity capital to microfinance institutions in emerging markets. As the first private microfinance investment fund in the United States, MicroVest's goal is to link capital markets to the entrepreneurial poor by expanding the capacity of profitable MFIs throughout the world. MicroVest is based in Bethesda, Maryland and was founded by CARE, MEDA, and the Seed Capital Development Fund—three non-profit organizations with longstanding credibility and investments in the microfinance industry.

For more information on MicroVest, please contact Lauren Clark at: lclark@microvestfund.com