



For Immediate Release

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Austin Volunteers Needed to Lend a Hand During MLK Day of Service

2011 Marks 25th Anniversary of MLK Day Holiday

AUSTIN, Texas – Jan. 10, 2011 – More than 700 Central Texas volunteers are expected to participate in the annual United Way Capital Area (UWCA) MLK Day of Service on Saturday, Jan. 15. A kick-off celebration begins at 9 a.m. with volunteer projects running from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. throughout the city

The MLK Day of Service begins at 9 a.m. with a kick-off at Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon St., Austin, in the Davage-Durden building. Keynote speaker is Gigi Edwards Bryant, owner of GMSA Management Services and a community activist who volunteers more than 3,000 hours each year. Other speakers include Dr. Larry Earvin, president of Huston-Tillotson University and Jeff Hahn, UWCA campaign co-chair.

Volunteers may register at the Hands On Central Texas website (handsoncentraltexas.org), at the kick-off event or by calling UWCA at 512-382-8611. Volunteers will participate in various service projects from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. These projects include cleaning Austin's greenbelts and school gardens, completing the building of a preschool playground and other community improvement projects.

“Dr. King showed us that every individual has the capacity to create change and this is a great opportunity for individuals and families to come out, volunteer together and improve our community,” said Debbie Bresette, president of United Way Capital Area.

About Hands On Central Texas

Hands On Central Texas, a program of United Way Capital Area, strengthens communities through meaningful volunteer action. Hands On Central Texas is a member of the Hands On Network, whose mission is to inspire, equip, and mobilize people to take action that changes the world. At the center of the network are more than 250 affiliates, called HandsOn Action Centers that serve 83% of the American population and located 12 international communities. The vast majority of Points Of Light Institute’s work and activity happens through HandsOn Network’s Action Centers and its expanded network of hundreds of nonprofit, community and faith-based and government organizations.

About United Way Capital Area

United Way Capital Area is working hard to advance the common good by focusing on three key areas: education, financial stability and health – the building blocks for a good life. UWCA works to create measurable change that prevent problems from happening in the first place and that empowers people to improve the quality of life for themselves and others. Our vision for Central Texas is a community where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income and healthy lives. For more information, please visit www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org.

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NOTE: Event day media contact: Amy Wells, 740-350-8643

Media are invited to attend the kick-off event and/or following projects:

Montopolis Greenbelt Clean-up

Address: 901 Vasquez Street

Description: American YouthWorks, Keep Austin Beautiful, and the Montopolis Tributary Trail Association are partnering to cleanup trash and remove invasive plants in the Montopolis Greenbelt. The Montopolis Greenbelt is more than 40 acres of undeveloped open green space that is being transformed into an area for public recreational use.

Open Door Preschools Playground and Site Improvement Project

Address: 1717 West 10th Street

Description: Open Door Central is in need of playground and site improvements. Job duties include moving sand and gravel, painting, gardening or building benches.

YouthLaunch – Urban Roots Farm

Address: 7651 Delwau Lane

Description: Activities at Urban Roots Farm include harvesting, planting, and other general work.

The Texas Ramp Project

Address: Please call for information.

Description: Volunteers will help build a ramp for a homebound resident

Personal Finance Coaching

Address: UWCA offices, 2000 East Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Description: Cornerstone Financial, a UWCA partner, will hold a personal finance training to better prepare parents to discuss financial issues with their children or mentees. Two trainings will be held from 10 a.m.-Noon and 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.