



For Immediate Release

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Austin Volunteers Take Action during Annual MLK Day of Service

AUSTIN, Texas – Jan. 16, 2010 – More than 600 Central Texas volunteers are expected to participate in the annual MLK Day of Service on Saturday, Jan. 16. A kick off celebration followed by volunteer projects throughout the city will both honor Dr. King's memory and further his legacy.

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 Dr. Richard Reddick, an assistant professor in the College of Education's Department of Educational Administration at The University of Texas at Austin. Other speakers include Debbie Bresette, President of United Way Capital Area which coordinates the annual Day of Service; State Representative Dawnna Dukes (D-Austin), Dr. Larry Earvin, president of Huston-Tillotson University and Armando Rayo, Director of Hands On Central Texas, a program of United Way Capital Area.

Volunteers must register at the kick off or have pre-registered at the Hands On Central Texas website or by calling 2-1-1. Volunteers will participate in various service projects from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. These projects include painting recreation and senior centers, beautifying parks and schools and sorting food.

"It is our honor to annually coordinate this special day of volunteerism," said Debbie Bresette, President of United Way Capital Area. "I can think of no better way for Austinites to honor Dr. King than by actively participating in a service project that will help others."

As she has for the past 11 years, Rep. Dukes will lead the clean up of MLK Boulevard. "Participation in the MLK Day of Service pays homage to Dr. King's legacy while carrying on his mission of taking pride in our community through good public works. This citywide day of service enables caring individuals to come together and have firsthand experience in improving our community."

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 the building blocks of a better life: education, financial stability and health. UWCA helps individuals and families in need and works to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. Our vision in Central Texas is a caring community where the opportunity to fulfill human potential is always within reach. For more information, please visit www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org.

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