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## **HANDS ON CENTRAL TEXAS BEGINS TRAINING VOLUNTEER ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS IN CENTRAL TEXAS**

**AUSTIN, Texas** – In preparation for Earth Day 2009, United Way Capital Area’s (UWCA) community engagement program Hands On Central Texas (HOCT), has launched **Natural Leaders**, a new training program that builds new volunteer & environmental leaders in Central Texas.

The natural Leaders training that begins tonight, equips volunteers with the skills, knowledge & ability to organize volunteer projects while addressing environmental issues that affect their communities. The training is being done in partnership with Austin Eco-Network. Brandi Clark, Austin’s Queen of Green & Armando Rayo, HOCT Director for United Way will facilitate the training.

“Many volunteers have expressed a desire to incorporate environmental aspects into their community engagement, so we’re very excited to be able to offer this training with the Austin Eco-Network,” said Rayo, Director of HOCT.

Participants also learn how to be stewards of our shared environment through education on issues such as sustainability, climate change, technology and innovation, energy efficiency and conservation, local food production, park and trail restoration and beautification of green spaces.

After the training, participants are encouraged to lead one to three projects within one year.

### About Hands On Central Texas

Hands On Central Texas, a program of United Way Capital Area strengthens communities through meaningful volunteer action.

We envision a world where all individuals discover their power to make a difference and are equipped as active, engaged citizens.

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. HandsOn Network. Generated by Points of Light Institute.

About United Way Capital Area

United Way Capital Area (UWCA) is working to advance the common good by focusing on the building blocks of a better life, education, financial stability and health. UWCA aims 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.

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