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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteer MBC Begins National Volunteer Week with Youth Volunteer Challenge and Recognition of Lifetime Achievement Volunteer

April 16, 2010 – Mississauga, ON – With the start of National Volunteer Week on April 18, 2010, Volunteer MBC is taking extra efforts to ensure that volunteers of all ages are recognized for their contributions to our community. In addition to participating in the *2010 ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge*, the volunteer centre is also taking the opportunity to recognize the first of many volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary contributions through the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Challenge is a provincial initiative to encourage and foster a lifelong commitment to youth volunteerism and to guide youth to become a force for change and for good in their community. This year there are 21 volunteer centres across the province of Ontario that will be taking part by encouraging youth aged 14 to 18 years to be engaged in community initiatives that will be held anytime during National Volunteer Week (April 18 to 24) through to May 9, 2010. The initiative has been co-ordinated by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) in partnership with the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN), and it is the second year that Volunteer MBC has participated.

The volunteer centre recently launched a dedicated website at www.volunteermbc.org/change.aspx where a list of confirmed 'adopt a cause' events are listed for youth to participate in. The goal is for the activities or events to raise awareness for a cause that youth are passionate about or to bring attention to issues that are impacting their community. Helpful resources, celebrity endorsement videos and contact information can also be found on the site.

Volunteer MBC is also pleased to announce Anne Walton as the recipient of the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Walton, an 80-year-old great grandmother, is a resident of Bolton and has been a dedicated volunteer in her community for nearly 50 years. "All of my volunteering keeps me going," stated Ms. Walton. "When you volunteer, you help yourself at the same time as you're helping others," she added.

Ms. Walton has volunteered in many capacities to include her church, the Girl Guides, a phone-in help centre, and Caledon Community Service, among others. A recognition event is being planned in the near future in order to formally present Ms. Walton with this award.

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“We are so happy to recognize Anne Walton for her voluntary contributions,” stated Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC. “She is a true example of how just one individual can make such an enormous impact by helping others so unselfishly. What a fitting way to launch National Volunteer Week.”

National Volunteer Week is the biggest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in our country. The 2010 campaign lands on the week of April 18 to 24, and is the opportunity to celebrate the achievements and hard work of all the volunteers in our community. In Canada, there are 12.5 million volunteers nationwide.

“Volunteer MBC believes that every volunteer has a unique gift they can bring to make their community a better place to live. Each person, even the most marginalized among us have acquired certain useful skills either through some form of training or through participation in informal economic activities and learning experiences. Volunteer MBC would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize all the volunteers in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon for your commitment and most importantly for sharing your special gift to make a difference in our community,” stated Ms. Strong.

Volunteer MBC is a volunteer centre serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon. The centre offers a referral service for volunteer placement within the community for all ages to include youth, seniors, newcomers and groups. They also serve the corporate community with various programming services that engage team volunteering. Additionally, the centre provides education and support for volunteers and community service agencies and organizations through topic and issue related workshops, comprehensive and informative programs, and community outreach.

Volunteer MBC is located at 2601 Matheson Blvd. E., Unit #43 in Mississauga, with satellite locations planned for the future in Brampton and Caledon. For more information about Volunteer MBC visit www.volunteermbc.org, or call 905.238.2622, or send an email to info@volunteermbc.org.

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For more information, contact:

Sharon Clark-Koufis
Marketing & Communications Manager
Volunteer MBC
P: 905.238.2622 ext. 21
C: 416.433.0639
E: media@volunteermbc.org

