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The future rests in our helping hands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**International Volunteer Day
Recognized by Volunteer MBC**

December 5, 2011 – Brampton, ON – Today is International Volunteer Day, as declared by the United Nations General Assembly. This is a day that celebrates the efforts of those who have made an important contribution to society by giving their time as volunteers. This year's International Volunteer Day is particularly special as it also marks the close of the tenth anniversary of the 2001 International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10). IYV is an opportunity for people all around the world to join a global effort to reinvigorate the spirit of volunteerism.

"Volunteer MBC strongly believes that by bringing valuable recognition to volunteers, we can all add value to the quality of life within our community," said Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC.

"Every volunteer has a unique gift or talent that they can use to help others, and it is our role as a volunteer centre to provide support to volunteers to guide them in exploring their interests and passions. We can refer or match individuals to volunteer opportunities in the Region of Peel community where they can truly make a difference." Ms. Strong further adds, "We would like to take this opportunity to thank every volunteer for all they do and the difference they make."

Since 1985, the United Nations General Assembly, through the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, has enhanced the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteer service. The programme highlights the great diversity of volunteers of all ages, origins, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds and experiences world-wide. This year, UNV has launched an on-line campaign to showcase why volunteering matters at: www.worldvolunteerweb.org/intl-vol-day.html.

"In the coming weeks, we are very pleased to be launching our new Volunteer Awards program," said Sharon Clark-Koufis, Marketing & Communications Manager at Volunteer MBC. "This will be an opportunity for our centre to share and highlight the stories and impact that volunteers have made in our community and to formally recognize their exemplary contributions." In 2012, Volunteer MBC will be hosting their inaugural Awards ceremony in April where recipients will be recognized. The centre will be providing more details closer to the date.

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Volunteer MBC is a volunteer centre serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon. The centre offers a referral and matching service for volunteer placement within the community for all ages. They also provide education and support for volunteers and community service agencies and organizations, and serve the corporate community with various programming services that engage individual and team volunteering. Additionally, the centre strives to be a strong voice to support and promote volunteerism.

Volunteer MBC is a member of the Community Door, which is located at 7700 Hurontario Street, Unit 601, in Brampton. A new Mississauga location will be announced shortly. A satellite location is also planned in Caledon in the future. For more information about the volunteer centre, and to access their on-line volunteer opportunities database, visit www.volunteermbc.org.

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