

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ashley E. Hyder
832-264-0814 - cell
ahyder@vcnt.org



**PHILANTHROPIST AND ARTS LEADER LINDA CUSTARD AMONG HONOREES
FOR 2011 HEARTS OF TEXAS AWARDS LUNCHEON**

DALLAS, TX (December 17, 2010) – **Linda Custard** will be honored along with Interstate Batteries and Episcopal School of Dallas for their commitment to the community through volunteerism during the Volunteer Center of North Texas' 2011 Hearts of Texas Award Luncheon. The event will take place at Noon on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 at the Anatole in Dallas.

The Volunteer Center of North Texas' Chief Executive Officer, Julie Thomas, continues to be impressed with the caliber of honorees for this event. Thomas believes the example shown by those being recognized will be a source of encouragement for others to invest their time back into the community.

"This group is particularly exceptional because each of them so clearly reflects a spirit of servant leadership," said Thomas. *"Their incredible volunteer work seems rooted in the humblest, most sincere desire to improve the community and the lives of others."*

Custard will receive the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for philanthropic support to numerous community projects as well as her commitment to the arts and volunteerism in the region. Luncheon Co-Chairs, Elaine Agather and Jan Pickens, along with Honorary Chair, Ruth Altshuler, will lead efforts in highlighting the many accomplishments and indelible impact that Linda has made over the years.

Additionally, **Interstate Batteries** will receive the **Corporate Service Award** for its stellar model of good corporate citizenship. Over the past 25 years, the company has participated in local projects with Union Gospel Mission, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Bill Glass Prison Fellowship to name a few. They have also involved their employees in mission trips in Africa, Hungary, Mexico and Russia to improve the quality of life for those in remote villages. In September of 2010, Interstate Batteries partnered with the VCNT to engage 300 of their employees in local service projects for "Volunteer Month."

The **Episcopal School of Dallas** will receive the **Youth Service Award** for their outstanding success in educating students on the importance of community involvement and social responsibility. Students in each grade level participate in age-appropriate service projects, designed to enhance classroom instruction and strengthen students' relationships through team building.

The school has done volunteer work to benefit many local nonprofit organizations, including North Dallas Shared Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Parkland Hospital, the American Red Cross, the North Texas Food Bank and VNA Meals on Wheels.

The Hearts of Texas Awards Luncheon is a fundraising event for the VCNT and annually recognizes individuals in the North Texas area who have dedicated themselves to the betterment of the community through the donation of their time, talent and resources. Proceeds from this event support programs and services to more than 1,700 nonprofit members of the VCNT.

About the Volunteer Center of North Texas

The Volunteer Center of North Texas (VCNT), founded in 1971, is one of the largest and most active volunteer centers in the country. A primary purpose of VCNT is to recruit volunteers, including individuals, corporations and civic and faith-based groups, to serve nonprofits and their clients throughout the North Texas area. For more information, visit www.vcnt.org

###