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**VOLUNTEERS ACROSS COLLIN COUNTY RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE
ON NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

DALLAS, TX (April 15, 2010) – More than 50 individual and group volunteers will be honored at the *Lone Star Salute!* in Collin County, a volunteer recognition event starting at 8 a.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2010, at the Plano Centre. This year's county-wide celebration will take place during National Volunteer Week, which is a week dedicated to celebrating the contribution of volunteers throughout the country.

"We are truly excited about the response to this year's event," said Stacy Cooper, *Lone Star Salute!* event chair. *"Volunteers are constantly giving their time for the betterment of the community, and we have a chance to recognize them for their selfless contributions."*

The *Lone Star Salute!* is a signature event for the Volunteer Center of North Texas (VCNT), where volunteerism is celebrated in a festive and lively environment. This event is co-organized by the VCNT and the Junior League of Plano.

Outstanding individual and group volunteers will receive a personalized award. Notable volunteers receiving recognition include Clay Randall from Collin College, the JCPenney IT Department and a volunteer group from Plano Charities.

Clay Randall was nominated by staff at Collin College for incorporating service-learning into his classes.

"As a new faculty member at Collin, he jumped in with both feet encouraging his students to be actively engaged, committed and concerned citizens. He challenged them to consider service above self and his efforts were recognized nationally." said Toni Jenkins of Collin College. *"He immediately came to mind when we were asked to nominate someone for the Lone Star Salute."*

Additionally, a volunteer group from the IT Department at JCPenney will be recognized by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Collin County for play areas they created for abused children.

"As a result of 1,000 hours of service provided by JCPenney Volunteers, the child abuse victims we serve now have an indoor and outdoor play area to play and interact with their family members during supervised parent/child visitation. These children will be able to play and just "be a child" in a safe and fanciful environment," said the Director of Development for CASA, Kathy Blank.

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