

Media Contact:
Lindsey Moon
T: 703-246-3892
lmooon@volunteerfairfax.org

For Immediate Release

Volunteer Fairfax helps families give together and grow together



Fairfax, VA – “I helped kids in the hospital feel that there is someone thinking about them” wrote Phillip, a 10 year-old participant of Volunteer Fairfax’s first-ever Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day. Amidst over 420 guests, families and children, like Phillip, reaped the benefit of learning the true value of volunteerism while spending quality time together. Phillip wrote his special memory during the reflection station, which asked guests to stop and reminisce on all they accomplished during the day, who was helped from their efforts and how they made a difference.

A Give Together banner featured short messages written by participants reflecting on their experience while children were able to decorate a picture and write down what they remembered most about the day. Memories such as these are the essence of volunteering and the confirmation that Give Together was truly a success. Whether a family learned to work together as a team or realized the needs of others before themselves, each family who attended was touched by the event in different ways.

Give Together was arranged to make giving back to the community easier by providing families the opportunity to work on several service projects in one central location. The event bonded families closer as they assisted each other with the different projects. Fathers could be seen showing their children how to braid and tie dog toys for homeless pets. Mothers helped their children write hope-filled messages of encouragement to orphans on Valentine’s Day cards. One mother in particular reminded her daughter that the bracelet she was making was not intended for her but instead would go to a sick little boy or girl who needed it more than she did. All of these service projects directly benefited the nonprofits present, including Fairfax 4-H, FACETS, Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and Orphan Foundation of America.

Many special guests joined in on the festivities. Local icon Cynné Simpson, an Emmy Award winning journalist who can be seen on ABC 7/WJLA-TV 5 p.m. newscasts on weeknights, welcomed the family volunteers with warm regards on the meaning of helping those in the community. Simpson quoted Martin Luther King, Jr. in spirit of the holiday, encouraging volunteers that “Everybody can be great because



anybody can serve.” Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova also addressed volunteers, encouraging their dedicated efforts. After the guests spoke, they walked around the event interacting with families at the various projects. Children were delighted to spend the afternoon with Slapshot, the mascot for the Washington Capitals’, and Ranger Rick, the National Wildlife Federation’s mascot. Slapshot was featured along side the Washington Capitals’ cheerleaders, the Red Rockers, who signed autographs and took pictures with fans at the event.

Volunteer Fairfax welcomed 420 attendees to this first-time event which resulted in a donation to local nonprofits that is equivalent to \$34,020 when calculated at the value of today’s volunteer hour¹.

For more information on this event or other Volunteer Fairfax programs and services, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or contact the Give Together Program Manager, Samantha Watson at swatson@volunteerfairfax.org.

Volunteer Fairfax is building a better community through service. As a respected leader of community volunteerism for more than 35 years, Volunteer Fairfax connects individuals, groups and corporations to volunteer opportunities in the Fairfax County area.

Volunteer Fairfax is supported by the following premier sponsors: Deloitte, Exxon Mobil Corporation and Northrop Grumman Corporation.

###

¹ In 2009, the Virginia Employment Commission values a volunteer hour at \$20.25.