



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Fairfax Residents Named Community Champion**

Fairfax, VA – A passion for activism that goes beyond the call of duty is what makes an outstanding volunteer earn the title “Community Champion.” Volunteer Fairfax and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will honor the Community Champion award winners in each district during the seventeenth annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards, on Friday, April 24, 2009, at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia.

Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors selected one outstanding volunteer in their district to receive a Community Champion award. This distinguished recognition honors volunteers who are dedicated to improving life in Fairfax County by bringing together volunteers, employees and interested citizens to address needs and issues in the County.

Community Champions will receive an award at the breakfast ceremony. This year’s Community Champion winners include:

#### **Braddock District Resident Nancy Mercer**

Chairman Bulova nominated Nancy Mercer for this award on behalf of all her hard work and dedication to the disabled community. Mercer is committed to empowering the disabled community and educating our society that people with disabilities are not limited in their rights or thoughts. “Mercer’s energy, enthusiasm and tireless efforts have paid huge dividends for people with disabilities,” claims Chairman Bulova. “Her contributions to that community have produced a better quality of life for the disabled.” She contributed more than 500 hours in 2008 to her volunteer work as the Co-Executive Director for The Arc of Northern Virginia.

#### **Dranesville District Resident Robert F. Rosenbaum**

Supervisor Foust nominated Robert F. Rosenbaum, Sr., for this award due to his long time unflinching commitment to provide whatever he can to the community. His contributions have included: playing



songs from his piano, asking for donations for charities such as the children's hospital, and dressing up as Santa Claus or a clown for charity events. Rosenbaum has entertained the Lewinsville Adult Day Care Center every week and the Arleigh Burke/Vinson Hall Senior Housings centers every month since 1987. His hard work and genuine care for the community have raised tens of thousands of dollars for several causes and has put smiles on countless faces.

### **Hunter Mill District Volunteers Hunter Mill Coat Closet**

Supervisor Hudgins nominated the 60 volunteers who comprise Hunter Mill Coat Closet because she believes they represent the best of Hunter Mill. The volunteers of the program perform a variety of services, including: picking up donations from various organizations, sorting coats, and staffing the hours the Coat Closet is open, which includes greeting and assisting participants. "The Hunter Mill Coat Closet epitomizes the spirit of the Community Champion award in that it brings together public and private sector employees, non-profit organizations, volunteers, businesses, schools and residents to address a very basic need- a warm coat," proclaims Supervisor Hudgins. "I am so proud that this effort, which started years ago, continues to bring the Hunter Mill community together and helps people all across the County."

### **Lee District Resident Norma Hoffman**

Supervisor McKay nominated Norma Hoffman for this award because she is an excellent role model for others through her actions and hard work. She founded the Citizens Alliance to Save Huntley Meadows, CASH, in 1975 to promote environmental preservation and the conservation of wetlands and wildlife throughout Fairfax County. Hoffman has inspired the community to be more aware of the environment. Her work has contributed to the preservation of 800 acres of wetland, along with its wildlife, throughout Fairfax County. In 2008 alone, she devoted approximately 600 hours to her environmental efforts. Hoffman hopes to preserve our natural surroundings so that they can be enjoyed for many generations to come.

### **Mason District Resident Stuart Feldstein**

Supervisor Gross nominated Stuart Feldstein due to his persistent thoughts and actions on how to improve the community, whether it is thinking of a way to alleviate traffic or helping to get kids off the streets. "Feldstein's quiet demeanor belies a fierce dedication to volunteerism and making his community



and Fairfax County a great place to live, work, play and worship,” claims Supervisor Gross. “His positive approach brings a can-do attitude and thoughtful solutions to any challenge.” Feldman began a children’s chess club at Woodrow Wilson Library. On Tuesday afternoons, he can be found teaching chess moves and strategies, as well as building self-esteem and sportsmanship for dozens of 6 to 13-year-old boys and girls, who now compete in local and regional chess tournaments.

**Mount Vernon District Resident Jeff Todd**

Supervisor Hyland nominated Jeff Todd because of his hard work, commitment and genuine care to better the community. His track record of giving includes more than 50 items for multiple silent charity auctions, collecting food for United Community Ministries’ Dream Girls Program, donating thousands of dollars to local schools, underwriting sponsorships for charity golf tournaments, and providing jobs for more than 75 people. According to Supervisor Hyland, “Jeff is a community oriented businessman who cares deeply about Mount Vernon. His volunteerism and sponsorship runs the gambit from schools to charitable organizations. Many people’s lives are better because of his compassion.”

**Springfield District Resident Trenda Powell Jacocks**

Supervisor Herrity nominated Trenda Powell Jacocks because of her commitment and perseverance to better the lives of all for 20 years and counting. She has excelled as an advocate and community leader for children, families and public schools. Powell Jacocks served as the Lake Braddock PTSA President and Vice President, President of White Oaks PTA, Vice President Sangster Elementary PTA, and LB Vocal Boosters Vice President. She works tirelessly to make sure that current and future generations get nothing but the best, which is why she invests so much into the youth and families. Powell Jacocks has received Citations of Service for Community Leadership from Governor Gilmore, First Lady Laura Bush, President George Bush, Senator Jim Webb and Senator John Warner, citing service to community public schools and country.

**Sully District Resident Olga Hernandez**

Supervisor Frey nominated Olga Hernandez because of her passion and determination to ensure that people comprehend their role in the community (in terms of voting and the government system as a whole), as well as helping to enhance the current government system that is in place. Hernandez has served as co-president, board member, service director and two-term president for the League of



Women Voters in the Fairfax Area, of which she is the first person to have held a two-term presidency in the 60 years of the League. Hernandez also played a critical role in having Virginia Senatorial Candidates appear on 19 different channels of C-SPAN in 2006, served as a moderator in candidate forums, served as a member of the Fairfax County Virginia 2007 Community Program Citizen Planning Committee for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jamestown, and worked with the Library of Virginia to train librarians to utilize the Commonwealth Legislative Information System.

“The Volunteer Service Awards are a wonderful opportunity to honor those who are making our community a better place to live,” says Jeanne Sanders, executive director of Volunteer Fairfax. “Through their volunteer achievements, these Community Champions have gone above and beyond the call of duty to meet the needs of our local community.”

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors serve as honorary chairs for the program and will present awards to each of the Community Champions along with other volunteer winners during the breakfast ceremony. Kathleen Matthews, executive vice president of Global Communications and Public Affairs with Marriott International, will serve as the ceremony’s keynote speaker, and ABC7/WJLA-TV Anchor Doug McKelway will emcee the program.

More than 500 guests are expected at this event, scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2009, at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia. For more information about the Community Champions or to purchase tickets, visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).

Established in 1993, the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. The Awards honor individuals, groups, and organizations, which have given outstanding volunteer service through a broad range of activities and programs. Over the last 16 years, Volunteer Fairfax has recognized more than 1,600 individuals for their commitment to the community.

Volunteer Fairfax is building a better community through service. As a respected leader of community volunteerism for more than 34 years, Volunteer Fairfax connects individuals, youth, seniors, families and corporations to volunteer opportunities at more than 700 organizations in the Fairfax County area. The Center has worked with more than 50,000 volunteers since its inception and has helped give more than



500,000 hours of volunteer service back to the community through its programs such as VolunteerFest<sup>®</sup>, A Celebration of Giving and Sharing, the emergency response program, and business services for corporate volunteers.

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