



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2008

**Delaware County Residents Make A Difference
during National Day of Service**

Delaware, OH – Hundreds of Delaware County students, community members and families from all over Delaware County came together to Make A Difference and a positive impact in the lives of others on Saturday, October 25.

More than 300 volunteers gathered at the Delaware Area Career Center – North Campus for an 8:30 a.m. kickoff breakfast and rally, where they received an official Make A Difference Day t-shirt and directives for the day. Eager volunteers were then dispersed throughout community parks, neighborhoods and nonprofit agencies to complete projects ranging from raking leaves and painting to community fundraisers including canned food drives and pumpkin sales.

First-time volunteer Trenton Wells was an honorary part of Brownie Troop #1019's effort to rake leaves at the Andrews House. According to Sharee Wells, this experience marks the beginning of a lifestyle of public service for her 4-year-old son.

"I'm glad that I was able to expose my son to an event that upholds the value in service and community," said Wells, a Principal at Ridgeview Middle School in Columbus. "It's important that we teach our young people the 'Gandhian' principle of being the change they want to see in the world and how to be good stewards of their community."

Locally organized by Connections Volunteer Center, Make A Difference Day is a nationally recognized day of service founded by USA Weekend Magazine and the Points of Light Foundation 18 years ago.

"This event is a wonderful way to display community at its best," said Pat Miley, Director of Connections Volunteer Center. "It also goes to show that a little bit of care and concern for others can go a long way and when we work together as a collective, we can do anything."

Volunteer sites included Alum Creek State Park, Andrews House, Big Walnut Historical Society, Big Walnut Friends Who Share, City of Delaware, Council for Older Adults, Cozy Cat Cottage, Monnett Gardens, Preservation Parks and Recreation Unlimited.

Sponsors for the event were Council for Older Adults, Education Sales Management, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Delaware County Bar Association, Panera Bread, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Tractor Supply Company, Bargain Outlet, Kroger, Walmart, Meijer, Giant Eagle, Max & Erma's, Delaware Area Career Center, Evening Delaware Kiwanis, McDonald's and Wyandot, Inc.

Braving the cold, participants returned to the Career Center for a hearty lunch and certificates of completion for a hard day's work. Walking away from the event with a sense of pride and accomplishment, Wells anticipates the next service opportunity.

“Now that he has experience as a volunteer, we plan to do more in our community and be a part of next year’s Make A Difference Day.”

Make a Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. If you are interested in joining the planning committee or registering your project for next year’s service day, contact Suzanne Pingry at 740.363.5000 or e-mail spingry@helplinedelmor.org.

About Connections Volunteer Center

Connections is the central clearinghouse for volunteering in Delaware County. Founded in 1996, Connections provides the leadership, training, education and resources that support volunteers as they improve the quality of life in the Delaware community. An affiliate of HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc., Connections coordinates the referral and placement of volunteers for more than 50 different agencies who offer more than 200 volunteer opportunities, while also providing services including electronic fingerprinting and background checks as part of the volunteer and employment process. For more information please visit <http://www.helplinedelmor.org/volunteer.htm>

Contacts:

Pat Miley, Connections Director

Phone: 740.363.5000

E-mail: pmiley@helplinedelmor.org