



Contact:
Volunteer Administrators' Network
Monica Mayer, PR Chair
614-279-0109 ext. 207
mmayer@ucpofcentralohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATORS' NETWORK ANNOUNCES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNER

The **Volunteer Administrators' Network (VAN)** announces the winner of the **Mary Merrill Award of Excellence, Pat Miley, Program Director for Connections Volunteer Center of Delaware County, a program of Helpline**. The award will be presented at the VAN Annual Meeting on January 24, 2008 held at Franklin University, Ross Auditorium in Alumni Hall, 301 East Rich Street, Columbus Ohio.

This year's winner, **Pat Miley**, is a leader in the field of volunteer administration. Over her six year tenure as Program Director for Connections Volunteer Center of Delaware County, one of her greatest achievements has been significantly increasing the number of volunteer opportunities resulting in a 152% increase in the number of hours donated by volunteers. In addition, Miley has served on the state planning committee for Make A Difference Day for two years, served as Vice President for the local Citizen's Police Academy, been a Board Member (Treasurer) of the local Literacy Coalition, strongly supports and volunteers for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and has been a presenter on the topic of volunteer management and board membership at numerous conferences and workshops. **With over 18 years experience in program development, training, and volunteer administration, Pat Miley is an outstanding volunteer and volunteer administration advocate and a deserving winner of the Mary Merrill Award of Excellence.**

The Mary Merrill Award of Excellence is presented annually to a corporate, public, or non-profit manager of volunteers for outstanding contributions to the profession of volunteer administration and the promotion of volunteerism. **The award was named in honor of the enormous contribution Mary Merrill made to the profession of volunteer administration and to the Volunteer Administrators' Network of Central Ohio.** Merrill truly embodied excellence in volunteer administration, tirelessly serving as an advocate, mentor and leader in the field, locally, nationally, and internationally. By naming this award in her honor, VAN strives to always remember Merrill's dedication, devotion, and passion to the field of volunteerism ultimately inspiring others to follow in her footsteps.

The **Volunteer Administrators' Network** is a professional membership organization committed to promoting volunteerism and excellence through quality professional development and networking opportunities. Members consist of volunteer administrators from non-profit organizations, government agencies and for-profit corporations. For more information visit the website at www.vancolumbus.org.

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