

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington County **VOLUNTEERS!**

March 31, 2008 – Stillwater, Minnesota – Volunteers have always made a real difference here in the St. Croix Valley. But as our lives grow busier, many people mistakenly believe that only homemakers or retired people can actively volunteer. In reality, there are as many types of volunteer opportunities as there are volunteers. And now, a new collaborative venture here in Washington County will correct those misconceptions, and promote a new kind of volunteerism in our region.

“Washington County VOLUNTEERS!” is jointly sponsored by the United Way of Washington County – East and Community Volunteer Service and Senior Centers. Next month the organizations will begin coordinating and publicizing the wide variety of volunteer opportunities available to local residents.

“Many people think volunteering requires a long-term commitment,” remarks Valerie Jones, executive director of Community Volunteer Service. “We’re eager to make the point that everyone can volunteer – no matter how much, or how little time you have to spend.”

One-day or short-term volunteer assignments are increasingly available. Many are designed to provide small work groups or families with fun and rewarding team-building experiences. “Instead of choosing to golf on a summer afternoon, you and your friends can take on a painting or landscaping project at a local nonprofit,” continues Jones. “A sales and marketing team can spend a half day developing a branding strategy for a nearby social service agency.”

“Washington County VOLUNTEERS!” will kick off its first set of projects during National Volunteer Week, April 27-May 3. Volunteers interested in participating in one of these inaugural projects should email Marthan@uwwce.org for a detailed list of opportunities.

“United Ways across the country have always supported volunteerism. This year however, it is becoming a central part of our call to the community, as we urge people to give, advocate, and volunteer,” explains United Way executive director Martha Naegeli. “Increasing volunteerism is truly a win-win for our community and our partner agencies.”

“Washington County VOLUNTEERS!” invites the participation of local schools, employers, churches, and service groups - anyone that would benefit from a volunteer experience. For more information call the volunteer center at 651-439-7434 or visit www.volunteercvs.org.

