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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Local Volunteer Centre
Celebrates Its 2nd Year Anniversary**

September 16, 2010 – Mississauga, ON – In September 2008, Volunteer MBC's vision had just become a reality – to be a volunteer centre that unites all citizens to ensure a healthy community where people truly care for each other and feel safe in an environment that promotes growth, diversity and respect. Just over two years later, the centre continues to plant the seeds to grow communities and is now celebrating its 2nd year anniversary.

“We certainly have come a long way and none of this would have been possible without the support of a terrific staff team, initial Steering Committee and now Board of Directors, John Huether, our funders and all of our dedicated volunteers,” said Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC. “It’s been an absolute flurry of on-going activity here at our centre, but it’s all paid off as we’ve reached some significant milestones, solidified some very strong partnerships and supporters, as well as seeing the impact that our efforts are making in the community, and beyond.”

Volunteer MBC was created to foster, develop and support volunteerism throughout the Region of Peel, serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon by raising awareness of the power of service. The centre offers a referral service for volunteer placement within the community, provides education and support for volunteers and community service organizations, participates in community outreach initiatives, and supports and promotes volunteerism through advocacy, public and media relations.

In 2007, the *Review of Volunteerism in Peel* report, which was prepared by John Huether, assessed the state of volunteering in Peel and laid the groundwork for the creation of Volunteer MBC.

Mr. Huether was recently recognized for his efforts and contributions at the centre’s Annual General Meeting held this past June and received an award in his honour.

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“Carine, your excellent and many accomplishments are a very strong reason to celebrate,” said John Huether. “You and your staff, and the Board deserve considerable credit as you are helping to make a huge difference in our community.”

“It is truly amazing that it has only been two years and in this short period of time, Volunteer MBC has become an effective, respected and thriving organization due to Carine’s leadership and the hard work and commitment of her entire team,” said Bonnie Yager, Board President of Volunteer MBC. “I can only imagine what the next year will bring.”

Shelley White, Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of Peel Region said, “Congratulations Carine to you and your team for achieving this important anniversary. Your vision and commitment has propelled Volunteer MBC to success.”

The volunteer centre’s goals are to **promote** volunteerism by reaching out to potential volunteers; **connect** volunteers to member agencies using an on-line volunteer opportunities database and through one-on-one consultation; **strengthen the capacity** of voluntary sector organizations in doing a better job at recruiting, management and retaining volunteers through informative workshops and networking opportunities; and to **partner** with community organizations to be a voice for volunteers and volunteerism.

Volunteer MBC is located at 2601 Matheson Blvd. E., Unit #43 in Mississauga, with satellite locations planned for the future in Brampton and Caledon. For more information about Volunteer MBC visit www.volunteermbc.org or call 905.238.2622.

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Volunteer MBC Team (from left to right):
 Carine Strong, Executive Director;
 Sharon Clark-Koufis, Marketing & Communications Manager;
 Adriane Beaudry, Program Manager; and Marina Campos, Office Manager.



Guests joining in on the celebration (from left to right):
 Madhuri Payidiparti, Everest College Placement Student at Volunteer MBC;
 Lori Dunne, Connections Outreach Worker at St. Leonard's Place Peel;
 Han Tran, LINC Manager at Catholic Crosscultural Services;
 and Arhia Thorpe, Volunteer Coordinator at Knights Table.

