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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteer Center Orange County Partners with Local Agencies to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day “A DAY ON” and not “A DAY OFF.”

On January 16th over 700 volunteers will join together to glean fields, pack boxes of food, and donate canned food for the needy

Santa Ana, January 9, 2005 – As part of President Bush’s “Call to Service,” Volunteer Center Orange County will lead Orange County residents in making Martin Luther King, Jr. day ‘A day ON, not a day OFF.’ Orange County residents will join thousands of Americans across the country in celebrating and honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by volunteering. During his lifetime, Dr. King, sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together as equals to address important community issues. Service, he realized, was the great equalizer. As he once said, "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve."

On January 16th, an expected 700 Orange County volunteers will harvest with the Second Harvest Food Bank in Irvine, pack boxes of food at Community Action Partnership of Orange County in Garden Grove, and lead food drive efforts across Orange County. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and Orange County Supervisor Lou Correa will be in attendance at the 9:00 a.m. pack-a-box session at the Garden Grove location. All collected goods will be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank and Community Action Partnership of Orange County, and then distributed to low-income families and seniors throughout Orange County. More than 400,000 people are at risk of going hungry every month in Orange County. Of these, 42% are children. “Volunteer Center Orange County shares Dr. King’s sentiments on community service, and is proud to be a leader in coordinating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service in Orange County. His message of service and community unity should not be forgotten,” said Dan McQuaid, President and CEO of Volunteer Center Orange County. “This Day of Service is the prefect way to honor Dr. King’s

vision by bringing together the diverse members of Orange County to provide for those in need and make a difference in our community.”

There are both morning and afternoon shifts available at both sites and pre-registration is required. Youth, their families, and anyone interested in volunteering on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service can visit VCOC’s website at www.volunteercenter.org/mlk to register or call (714)953-5757 Ext. 135.

Many community service organizations have joined efforts with VCOC to coordinate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service in Orange County: 100 Black Men, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Anti-Defamation League, Black Chamber of Commerce, City of Santa Ana, Community Action Partnership of Orange County, Community Day High School, Office of Orange County Supervisor Lou Correa, Office of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, Tarbut V’Torah, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority – O.C. chapter, and California State University, Fullerton.

About Volunteer Center Orange County

For over 40 years, Volunteer Center Orange County has been the essential partner in improving the quality of life in Orange County by connecting community resources, increasing volunteerism, and building professional capacity in nonprofit organizations. Last year they connected over 41,000 volunteers to local opportunities. Their nine million hours of service to the community equaled a \$141 million cost-savings to local organizations. For more information on Volunteer Center Orange County please visit their website at www.volunteercenter.org.

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