



**PRINCE GEORGE'S
VOLUNTEER CENTER**

mobilizing volunteers to solve community problems

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**2009 Affair of the Heart “Celebrates The Call to Serve” by honoring the
Prince George’s Volunteer of the Year**

— County Executive Jack Johnson to Honor Volunteers at National Volunteer Week kick-off event —

Hyattsville, MD (March 23, 2009) – Prince George’s Volunteer Center and the Prince George’s County Office of the County Executive will kick-off National Volunteer Week with a community-wide event on Friday, April 17. The 2009 Affair of the Heart Gala and Silent Auction is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Friday, April 17, at University of Maryland University College Inn and Conference Center by Marriott in Adelphi. This annual awards event honors the individuals and groups that best exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and community giving in Prince George’s County. The Center will also award college scholarships to two outstanding graduating high school student volunteers. Tickets for the event are \$10/person.

ABC 7/WJLA-TV meteorologist Brian van de Graaff will join the celebration again this year. “I’m honored to be involved in an event that pays tribute to volunteer service. I am particularly happy to be taking part in an evening that recognizes students who are giving their time and energy to make a difference. I look forward to my 6th year as the awards presenter for the Affair of the Heart Gala.” says van de Graaff.

This year, the Volunteer of the Year honorees are:

- All Shades of Pink Comfort Blanket Program Volunteers (Group) for their support of breast cancer patients going through the post-surgery recovery process;
- Christopher Blegen (Youth) for his long-term and varied volunteer service with Progressive Equestrian Therapeutic Services (PETS), Inc.;
- Terry Boykins (Individual) for his work with The City of District Heights’s Young Men of Power Program;
- Hazel Cooper (Senior) for her work with the SHABACH! Emergency Food and Clothing Pantry;
- William Marci (Bernie Nees Unsung Hero) for his service with the Veterans Medical Center’s Volunteer Transportation Network;

- Volunteer Tutor Corps of Literacy Council of Prince George's County (Group) for improving the literacy rate in the County;
- Jacqueline Brown Woody (County Agency) for her advocacy and service to improve the quality of life for Prince George's County residents through her leadership in various community initiatives, programs and projects; and
- Graduating seniors Brandon Browne (Bowie High School) and Allison Baumgartner (Bishop McNamara High School) will receive the Bernice "Bunny" LaCour Memorial Scholarship.

"The winners of this year's awards exemplify what it is to be a volunteer in the Prince George's community. All of our volunteers are phenomenal citizens who go beyond the call of duty. I can not express enough admiration and thanks to these outstanding volunteers for their dedicated volunteerism," states Vania McNeary, President of the Center's Board of Directors and AVP, Branch Sales Manager of The Washington Savings Bank. "I am truly honored to be associated with these individuals and look forward to celebrating their work on April 17," Ms. McNeary continues.

A silent auction, held as part of the Gala, helps support the volunteer center's programs and services - which are provided free or at minimal costs to individuals and nonprofit organizations. The year's silent auction includes jewelry, vacation packages, gift baskets and area restaurant gift certificates.

Affair of the Heart Gala sponsors include Prince George's County Office of the County Executive, The Washington Savings Bank, Enlightened, Inc., Doctors Community Hospital, PEPCO, ABC 7/WJLA-TV, Crescent Cities Jaycees Foundation, www.BeATravelPro.com, and RFTDesigns.

Prince George's Volunteer Center mobilizes volunteers to solve community problems. Created in 1982 as a private, nonprofit organization, Prince George's Volunteer Center provides volunteer recruitment and referral, volunteer recognition activities, and support for agencies and managers of volunteer programs. It also supports the Prince George's County government in its emergency preparedness for residents and local businesses.

Created in 1974 by President Richard Nixon, National Volunteer Week is a time to engage individuals in service, inspire a nation to join a movement for change, and recognize deserving volunteers. National Volunteer Week 2009 is April 19 – 25.

To learn more about the Prince George's Volunteer Center, please call (301) 699-2800, or visit us on the Web at www.princegeorgesvolunteer.org.

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