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CONTACT:

Cori W. Bassett, communication director

cbassett@volunteerfairfax.org

703-246-3460, ext. 3, 1(o)

703-474-0340 (c)

For Immediate Release

Malia Kishore of Great Falls Wins a Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award

Fairfax, VA – Gone are the days when the image of a volunteer conjured up only pictures of a candy striper in a hospital or women who did not work outside the home. Nowadays, volunteers might offer an emergency shelter to a child removed from his home or provide laughter and friendship to a person with a disability, or they might even help a single mom and her daughters graduate from college.

Sixty-five individuals nominated in 13 award categories, nine Community Champions, and 96 Benchmark award honorees were recognized at the 2007 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards, hosted by Volunteer Fairfax on April 24, 2007, at the McLean Hilton.

This year's winner of a Volunteer Service Award in the category of volunteers who work with organizations serving youth or at risk youth is Malia Kishore of Great Falls.

Malia volunteers with Stop Child Abuse Now, "SCAN" of Northern Virginia as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA. SCAN is dedicated to the well-being of children, the improvement of parent-child relations and the prevention of child abuse and neglect by educating the community about positive parenting.

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Malia has given 700 volunteer hours and advocated for 23 children during her ten years at SCAN.

For two years, Malia was instrumental in securing a permanent home for the youngest two of four siblings by supporting the adoption of the children by their maternal grandparents. Malia stayed involved with the older siblings, making sure they were doing well in their foster homes and encouraging them to remain in foster care after their eighteenth birthdays in order to attend college.

Malia's experience with SCAN guided her to start her own non-profit, The Foster Youth Transition Foundation. This foundation serves foster care youth over the age of 13 by assisting them with the expenses associated with the last two years of high school. Junior and senior year of high school can be very expensive with SAT and college entry fees, prom dresses and college visits topping the list of expenses.

Jennifer McGrory, a CASA supervisor, said: "Because of Malia's attention to detail and her rapport with her CASA children, their family, and the professionals involved, her CASA children are in safe homes today."

Malia is one of the more than 150 volunteers and groups recognized at this event. This year's nominees gave more than 110,000 hours of service to the community. When calculated at the estimated value of today's volunteer hour*, this time equals a more than \$2 million donation to area nonprofits.

Keynote speaker Robert K. Goodwin, former president and CEO of the Points of Light Foundation, talked about how today's volunteers have changed the face of American volunteerism and helped to reestablish the personal connections that have been increasingly lost in the modern age.

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Derek McGinty, WUSA-TV 9 anchor, emceed the event. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, who served as honorary chairs for the program, presented the Awards to the winners during the ceremony.

For more information about the event, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Established in 1993, the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. The Awards honor individuals, groups and organizations who have given outstanding volunteer service through a broad range of activities and programs. Over the last 14 years, Volunteer Fairfax has recognized more than 1,300 individuals for their commitment to the community.

Volunteer Fairfax is a private nonprofit corporation established in 1975 to mobilize people and resources to meet regional community needs. Each year, Volunteer Fairfax helps more than 10,000 individuals find community service opportunities. In 2006, the volunteer center was responsible for generating more than 60,000 volunteer hours, which is an investment of nearly \$1,400,000 in volunteer time to area nonprofits.

*In 2006, the Virginia Employment Commission values a volunteer hour at \$18.73.

<http://www.vaservice.org/go/volunteer/statistics/>

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