



Volunteer Center of Rhode Island

Connecting People and Opportunities



For Immediate Release

Lynne Harper
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
401-421-6547, ext 106
lharper@vcri.org

SUZANNE CARCIERI CONNECTS WITH THE VOLUNTEER CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND AT ANNUAL MEETING

Providence, RI (May 18, 2006)—Suzanne Carcieri joined the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island yesterday at its annual meeting, a celebration of volunteer efforts across the state in 2005.

The first lady spoke on her lifelong commitment to community service and the importance of volunteering to the health of Rhode Island. The annual meeting served as a celebration that included the appointment of a new VCRI president, Valerie Leduc, and citations awarded from the governor's office presented to four volunteers by Mrs. Carcieri.

The annual meeting comes after learning of pending legislation from Governor Carcieri's proposal to cut 25 percent of community service grant programs.

The Volunteer Center of Rhode Island receives 10 percent of its budget from the community service grants.

The Volunteer Center made its mark on Rhode Island in 2005 connecting over 10,000 volunteers to opportunities throughout the state. The center also played an important role in helping to increase the rate of volunteering in Rhode Island by 21percent last year. VCRI added a Part Time AmeriCorps Program which allows individuals who serve 300 hours to receive an education award to defray college costs.

A computer lab for Veterans was opened where they can learn technology skills necessary to volunteer and work in their communities. Executive Director, Kelly Nevins, at the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island announced an endowment fund has been set up by Marty Livingston, a founding volunteer. The fund will be used to continue the mission of the Volunteer Center of

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Rhode Island.

As the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island moves into the year 2006 it continues to grow with new president, Valerie Leduc. Leduc has been involved with VCRI since 1999. She has volunteered with a number of organizations and also served as treasurer of the board of directors for VCRI.

Leduc will lead the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island into its future of providing effective volunteer community service with projects underway such as the building of a 211 system.

Recognizing the importance of disaster relief after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and Rita, the 211 system would provide direct help for those in need and individuals looking for ways to offer their help. VCRI continues to leave its impact on Rhode Island.

For more information contact the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island at (401) 421-6547 or by email at lharp@vcri.org.

About the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island

Originally incorporated as Volunteers in Action in 1969, the mission of the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island (VCRI) is to connect people and opportunities for effective community service. We do this by promoting volunteerism statewide, connecting volunteers to opportunities, building the capacity for effective volunteerism through training and consultation and by collaborating with community stakeholders where volunteers are involved.

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