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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2nd Annual Community Expo to Offer
Job and Volunteer Information for Newcomer Youth

March 2, 2010 – Mississauga, ON – Volunteer MBC (Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon) has partnered with the Youth Exchange Program to host their 2nd Annual Community Expo for youth. The Expo will offer informative presentations from community organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, ACCESS Charity, Service Canada and Volunteer MBC, followed by a volunteer and job fair with over 30 organizations participating.

The Community Expo will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at the Holiday Inn, which is located at 30 Peel Centre Drive in Brampton. The presentations will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. with the volunteer and job fair being held until 6:00 p.m. Other partners of the Community Expo include Sheridan College, Employment Ontario, the Peel Halton Workforce Development Group, and the Brampton Mayor's Youth Team.

The Youth Exchange Program is a series of community activities and events targeted at youth who are new to Canada and their parents to help them connect to their new communities. The program is funded by the Citizenship and Immigration Canada and is coordinated by the Centre for Education and Training.

Volunteer MBC will be providing detailed information about youth volunteerism in their presentation at 1:30 p.m., as well as at their booth during the volunteer and job fair. In addition, the volunteer centre will be promoting the upcoming *ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge*, which will be held from April 18 through to May 9, 2010. *The Challenge* is an initiative by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, with over 20 volunteer centres across the province of Ontario participating.

"We truly feel that youth are the future of our community, and it is imperative for our volunteer centre to present the many benefits of youth volunteerism, especially for newcomer youth," stated Carine Strong, Executive Director of Volunteer MBC. "Volunteering is a great way to socially integrate, meet new friends, and to gain a better understanding of the role you can play in strengthening your community."

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Ms. Strong further notes, "*The Challenge* is a campaign to encourage and increase youth volunteerism and to encourage and foster a lifelong commitment to volunteering – over and above the 40 hours of mandatory community service for high school." More information about *The Challenge* in the Region of Peel will communicated in the coming days.

Volunteer MBC is a volunteer centre serving the cities of Mississauga and Brampton, and the Town of Caledon. The centre offers a referral service for volunteer placement within the community for all ages to include youth, seniors, newcomers and groups. They also serve the corporate community with various programming services that engage team volunteering. Additionally, the centre provides education and support for volunteers and community service agencies and organizations through topic and issue related workshops, comprehensive and informative programs, and community outreach.

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, or send an email to info@volunteermbc.org.

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For more information, contact:

Sharon Clark-Koufis
Marketing & Communications Manager
Volunteer MBC
P: 905.238.2622 ext. 21
C: 416.433.0639
E: media@volunteermbc.org

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2601 Matheson Blvd. E., Unit 43, Mississauga, ON L4W 5A8   Phone: 905.238.2622   Fax: 905.238.2612   Email: info@volunteermbc.org
www.volunteermbc.org