



WESLEY HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER CELEBRATES NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Knoxville, Tennessee (April 22, 2009) – Wesley House Community Center (“Wesley House”) is celebrating National Volunteer Week.

The theme for 2009’s National Volunteer Week, which is being commemorated from April 19 through April 25, is "Celebrating People in Action." The theme captures the meaning behind this signature week – honoring the individuals who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities.

Sharon Earl, Wesley House’s Volunteer Coordinator, enthusiastically appreciates the countless volunteers that serve in various capacities at Wesley House. “Our volunteers do so much for us, and without them, we simply could not do what we do and touch as many lives as we touch. We currently have 16 volunteers who come to the center after school and during the summer to listen to our children read, assist with their homework, and support them in other extra-curricular activities. These volunteers are not only mentors, but more importantly friends, to our children. Numerous United Methodist Women’s groups and Sunday School classes also support Wesley House throughout the year by serving lunches, hosting parties, and sponsoring outings and activities. We are thankful for all of our volunteers!”

To show their appreciation, the children of Wesley House are creating special hand-made gifts for the volunteers.

About Wesley House and the National Volunteer Week

Wesley House is the second oldest charity in Knoxville. Founded in 1907 by the Methodist Women, the center operated a childcare center for mothers who worked at Brookside Mills. In the 1940s, Wesley House became a National Mission of the United Methodist Church to minister to families in impoverished areas. Today, Wesley House conducts tutoring sessions, operates a learning center, provides a summer enrichment program, and offers a series of performing arts and cultural activities for at-risk youth in grades 1-8. Wesley House also offers an ongoing

educational and social program for senior citizens, focusing on both physical and mental well-being. Wesley House primarily serves the Mechanicsville, Lonsdale, and Beaumont neighborhoods.

The Points of Light Institute, an integrated national organization with a global focus to redefine volunteerism and civic engagement for the 21st century, putting people at the center of community problem solving, sponsors National Volunteer Week annually.

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