



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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### **Tech group wins Governor's Award**

*Awards mark beginning of Volunteer Week in Virginia*

Richmond, Va. – Governor Timothy M. Kaine has announced recipients of the 2009 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. These awards highlight the efforts of outstanding citizens of the Commonwealth who seek to enhance the lives of others in their communities. The awards are presented to groups, individuals and families whose efforts exemplify extraordinary volunteer service.

"I offer sincere congratulations to the volunteers who made a difference in the lives of others this year," said Governor Kaine. "When we serve our community as volunteers, our unique skills, perspectives and experience make us a stronger Commonwealth."

A Blacksburg group is a recipient of the 2009 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Award.

#### **Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets: *Government/Education Award.***

During the past fall semester alone, the cadets volunteered more than 3,600 service hours in the community. The cadets participated in fundraising events, speaking engagements, and completed several direct service projects, including raising money for scholarships and charities, donating more than 240 units of blood, sending Christmas cards to wounded troops, mentoring school children through tutoring, and even sacrificing Thanksgiving break for a service project.

They have demonstrated initiative by traveling at their own expense to help with the Hurricane Katrina cleanup and were honored to answer a last-minute call from Washington to perform at the "We Are One" Inaugural Celebration. One cadet, Anthony Madeira, began a service project that eventually resulted in raising \$172,000 for the National D-Day Memorial. On average, each cadet serves in three different service projects each semester. Despite the academic, social, and military demands placed on them by the Corps, these young men and women are willing to spend what little free time they have to support Virginia Tech's motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).

Governor Kaine has proclaimed April 19 - 25 as Volunteer Week in Virginia. As a prelude to the recognition week, these individuals and organizations were presented their awards during a special awards ceremony April 15 in Richmond. The Governor's Advisory Board on National and Community Service, Virginia Corps and the Virginia Department of Social Services' Office on Volunteerism and Community Service hosted the ceremony.

At least 1.7 million Virginians volunteer their time and talents annually. Virginians average nearly 243 million volunteer hours, equaling more than \$4 billion dollars worth of service to the

state. For more information about the awards and Volunteer Week in Virginia, visit [www.vaservice.org](http://www.vaservice.org).

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