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## United Way sees largest turnout ever for *Day of Caring*™

MISSISSAUGA (October 23, 2008) — How do you fit four months of work into a single day? Ask the 180 volunteers who participated today in United Way of Peel Region's fall *Day of Caring!* Together, they contributed more than 1,000 hours of time to complete 43 different projects at 17 United Way-funded agencies around the region.

In the largest turnout ever for United Way's *Day of Caring*, volunteers from 15 organizations in Peel rolled up their sleeves to serve meals, provide computer training, conduct practice job interviews, accompany agency clients on outings, teach arts and crafts, help at a food bank, paint, and clean up gardens. It would take one person working an eight-hour day for four months without a break to complete the same tasks. The caring power of today's volunteer work is valued at more than \$18,000.

"Everyone wins with *Day of Caring*," explains Shelley White, United Way CEO. "Community agencies have work done that they otherwise would not be able to afford; volunteers receive tremendous satisfaction from completing often desperately needed tasks; and United Way has the opportunity to let more people know about the impact on our community of the programs and services we fund."

The following organizations sent volunteers: Canada Post, Chrysler, E.I. DuPont, General Mills, IKON Office Solutions, Ingram Micro, Mettler-Toledo, Microsoft Canada, Nacan Products, Peel Regional Police, Region of Peel, Ricoh, Spherion, The Pepsi Bottling Group (Canada) Ltd. and UPS SCS.

The participating agencies were: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel, Brampton Caledon Community Living, Brampton Neighbourhood Resource Centre, Caledon Community Services, Caledon Meals on Wheels, Canadian Mental Health Association/Peel Branch, Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin, Community Living Mississauga, Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel-Halton, Family Education Centre, Foodpath, Malton Neighbourhood Services, Our Place (Peel), Peel Senior Link, Skills for Employment, Life and Family (SELF), VON Peel and YMCA.

The mission of United Way of Peel Region is to engage with our community, through partnerships, to ensure people are cared for, connected and included.