



Contact: Julie Jalowiec
315-724-4197
jjalowiec@unhs.org

1611 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501
Tel. 315-724-4197
Fax. 315-724-1415
NYS TDD Relay # 800-622-1220
www.thehomeownershipcenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Resident's Volunteerism Calls to Mind the Spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 11, 2011 (Utica, NY) – With the approach of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a day that not only celebrates the birthday and history of the late Dr. King, but also encourages citizens to volunteer their services that day in his honor, Utica resident Marron McLeod epitomizes civil action and volunteerism with his recent receipt of the **President's Volunteer Service Award**.

"His service and dedication to his community and the residents of Utica is truly inspiring," said Janice Forte, CEO of The HomeOwnership Center.

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation (the Council) was established in 2003 to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers make in their communities and encourage more people to serve. The Council created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who inspire others to volunteer through their own service to their communities.

McLeod serves as the Garden Coordinator for his block association, working for more than 20 years and logging countless volunteer hours to maintain and care for the Cornhill Community Garden, the oldest on-going neighborhood garden in Utica. He has inspired his neighbors to actively farm and tend after the local garden, providing not only food, but also a positive learning experience for area youth. The project has also been a constant source of inspiration to stabilize and revitalize the surrounding neighborhood.

In addition to receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award, McLeod was also recently honored with the 2010 Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership. He was honored at a dinner reception at the NeighborWorks® America Annual Awards reception on Thursday, December 9, 2010 during the National Training Institute in Washington, D.C.

Chartered in 1979 by NeighborWorks America, The UNHS NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center has been the leader in housing initiatives for more than 30 years. Through various programs such as Home Buyer Education, Post-Purchase Education and Pre-purchase Counseling, the certified and trained staff at the HOC offers a multitude of services on HomeOwnership. The HOC is your one-stop shop for HomeOwnership. Serving Oneida, Herkimer and Madison counties.

-###-

If you would like more information on this topic, or to schedule an interview, please contact Julie Jalowiec at (315) 724-4197 or email Julie at jjalowiec@unhs.org