



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SOUTHWEST AIRLINES ANNOUNCES DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
GIFT AT VOLUNTEER CENTER OF NORTH TEXAS' CORPORATE FORUM**

WHEN: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 29, 2010

WHERE: Volunteer Center of North Texas, 2800 Live Oak Street, Dallas, TX 75204

WHO: CEOs of the Mass Care Task Force (American Red Cross – Dallas Area Chapter, The Salvation Army, North Texas Food Bank and Volunteer Center of North Texas), Mayor Tom Leppert, Gary Kelly, Chairman of the Board, President & CEO of Southwest Airlines, 38 companies, and seven CEOs of major Dallas-area businesses.

WHAT: The Volunteer Center of North Texas hosted a **Corporate Forum** (sessions, presentations and workshops that provide an opportunity for businesses to share ideas that benefit both employees and management). The discussion featured the **Mass Care Task Force (MCTF)**, a unique collaboration of four nonprofit organizations whose goal is to effectively respond during times of catastrophic disaster and reduce duplication of services when delivering humanitarian aid. The MCTF received a \$5.1 million challenge grant from the Communities Foundation of Texas in 2009.

The MCTF and business leaders discussed the collaboration and how to assist in times of disaster. Near the conclusion of the breakfast, **Gary Kelly announced a gift of \$345,000** to support the MCTF. Additionally, Southwest Airlines has committed more than 5,000 of its employees to participate as volunteers during times of disaster.



Pictured: (l to r)

Gary Kelly - Southwest Airlines, poses with Major Ward Matthews, DFW Metroplex Commander - The Salvation Army, Julie Thomas, CEO - Volunteer Center of North Texas, Jan Pruitt, President /CEO - North Texas Food Bank, Cheryl Sutterfield-Jones, CEO – American Red Cross, Dallas Area Chapter, Brent Christopher, President/CEO - Communities Foundation of Texas and Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert to celebrate the airline's \$345K gift to support disaster response.

(more)

About the Volunteer Center of North Texas

The Volunteer Center of North Texas (VCNT), founded in 1971, is one of the largest and most active volunteer centers in the country. A primary purpose of VCNT is to recruit volunteers, including individuals, corporations and civic and faith-based groups, to serve nonprofits and their clients throughout the North Texas area. For more information, visit www.vcnt.org.

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