



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Foreverfamily Honors Volunteers During National Volunteer Month**

*Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer. – Author Unknown*

**April 27, 2010 (Atlanta)** Foreverfamily, Inc. (formerly AIM) took time to honor its local volunteers on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at the Foreverfamily Atlanta office. This celebration; entirely coordinated by the Foreverfamily children, included special recognition for the volunteers in various categories, a cook-out and games.

“The children were very ‘hands-on’ in this process,” says Ericka Green, Program Manager Foreverfamily Atlanta. “They selected the categories and the nominees.” Some of the categories included ‘Best Volunteer Recruiter, Most Lovable, Most Fun to be Around in addition to the male and female Volunteer of the Year. Brian Haymon, a student at Spelman was voted ‘Female Volunteer of the Year’. “I enjoy my time at Foreverfamily. Being at Foreverfamily really challenges me; it helps me step outside my comfort level,” said Haymon. “The kids are really paying attention to everything.” Zyki Franklin from Georgia State University and Male Volunteer of the Year agrees, “This gives me an opportunity to give back. We [the volunteers] learn to be a positive influence on them [the children]. This is a safe place for them, a nurturing environment and they know we care about them.”

The significance of the volunteers cannot be emphasized enough. According to Green, volunteers are important for the delivery of services for Foreverfamily. “We are a small staff and the contributions of our volunteers are invaluable. They [the volunteers] assist with the day-to-day activities, routine office work, help coordinate the prison visits twice a month, and they also recruit other volunteers.” The role of the volunteers will be instrumental during the summer. “We are holding the ATL (About Teen Life) Academy which is day camp for the Foreverfamily teens during the summer. The volunteers will be closely involved in those activities including career exploration, job shadowing and a college tour as we prepare them for the next school year.”

The relationship Foreverfamily Atlanta has developed with Spelman College, Georgia State University, Clayton State University (Morrow, GA), Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta has proven beneficial to the institutions, the college students and the children of Foreverfamily. According to Green, “The children look at the volunteers and see that they are young and successful and one day that could be them. The volunteers make college and education fun and the children get to see success at an early age.”

James Leavell, Program Director of Foreverfamily's Louisville affiliate concurs. "Without the strong volunteer team we have in place at Foreverfamily Louisville, we would not be able to effectively serve the children and the families."

### **About National Volunteer Month**

National Volunteer Month was established by President Richard Nixon in 1974. National Volunteer Month is an opportunity to celebrate ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things through service.

### **About Foreverfamily**

*Foreverfamily* is a national non-profit organization that assists inmates, their children and other family members in maintaining those critically important family ties that can become strained during a parent's incarceration. *Foreverfamily's* efforts focus on children with an incarcerated parent or parents, caregivers and relatives as they strive to remain a family. *Foreverfamily* works to ensure that all children have the opportunity to be surrounded by the love of family. Foreverfamily is headquartered in Atlanta with affiliate offices in Atlanta and Louisville, KY.

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