



Hostelling International USA

Eastern New England Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Hostelling International-Boston Wins Prestigious Award from the President

(April 30, 2008) HI-Boston today received the President's Call to Service Award, for a lifetime achievement of providing over 4,000 volunteer service hours through its Alternative Spring Break program. The President's Call to Service Award was presented by the Secretary of Agriculture, Edward Schafer.

HI-Boston's Alternative Spring Break Program is a unique group program in which hostellers work with members of communities with whom they may otherwise have little contact. This type of "volun-tourism" develops social awareness and activism, while creating a culture of responsible tourism. HI-Boston has a strong presence in the Boston community, matching groups with service opportunities that accommodate their varied needs. Groups have worked with such diverse community service organizations as Habitat for Humanity, The Greater Boston Food Bank, Project Hip Hop, The Women's Lunch Place and the Moorville House.

In 2003, President Bush created the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to recognize the valuable contributions of the nation's volunteers. The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

As a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization, the Eastern New England Council (ENEC) of Hostelling International-USA is dedicated to promoting intercultural understanding, environmental stewardship and world peace through travel. A nonprofit educational and charitable organization founded in 1934

to promote global awareness through education and travel, ENEC supports a network of nearly 80 hostels in the United States and is part of an international network of about 4,000 hostels spanning 60 countries. ENEC is one of 29 regional groups chartered by Hostelling International-USA, and manages 6 hostels in the region, including 2 facilities in Boston and 4 on Cape Cod and the Islands.

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