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Media Announcement For Immediate Release

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Lucas County's One-Stop "The Source" Wins State-Wide Award Local Center Rated Top in Veteran Service

TOLEDO, OH – The Source Northwest Ohio, Lucas County's One-Stop Employment Center, was awarded top honor for service to Veterans recently by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). The local center was rated highest among the state's 90 certified One-Stop centers.

In its annual competition, ODJFS selected The Source for providing Veterans with superior customer service, streamlined priority of service and exemplary efforts to ensure Veterans are aware of the services available through city, county, state and federal programs.

"Our veterans deserve the highest level of service and I'm proud to see the State of Ohio recognize Lucas County and The Source for its innovative efforts to support and care for these most-worthy men and women," said County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak.

It was also noted that the Veterans Services Team at The Source strives to keep area employers engaged in hiring Veterans through constant interaction and open and ongoing communication. This contact allows the Team to make quality referrals to employers and ensures that the skills and qualifications of their clients meet the employer's needs.

Another program that put The Source at the top was local implementation of the Homeless Veterans Initiative. This has been accomplished by assessing new clients and providing qualified individuals with a "Street Card" which lists various community contacts and support agencies. Included on the card is a toll-free number to the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans and the name of an outreach worker with the Veteran's Administration in Ann Arbor, MI who helps homeless Vets register for services.

Other activities included registering 651 new veterans for service through The Source. As a result, 87 veterans found employment, 248 veterans were referred to Lucas County Veterans Service Commission for supportive services and 188 veterans were referred to ODJFS Veteran Service Representatives to assist them with employment. The annual veteran job fair, held in November 2009, served 400 veteran job seekers and 50 employers attended the event. The 2010 event is scheduled for November 5.

Other state-wide awards announced included:

- Business Services Team of the Year, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Area 17, Mahoning and Columbiana Counties
- Employer of the Year, M*7 Technologies of Youngstown, nominated by WIA Area 17, Mahoning and Columbiana Counties
- One-Stop Best Practice, "The Stimulate Your Career Program," WIA Area 4, Lorain County
- One-Stop Customer Service Award, The Employment Source, WIA Area 6, Stark and Tuscarawas Counties
- Workforce Investment Board of the Year, Lake County, WIA Area 5

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