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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**GARY WHEELER AND TESSA KOMINE RECOGNIZED AS MEDFIELD
FOUNDATION 2009 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR**

The Medfield Foundation proudly recognizes Gary Wheeler as its 2009 Volunteer of the Year for his work as the Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 10 and Tessa Komine as its 2009 Youth Volunteer of the Year for her multitude of activities, but especially for promoting youth volunteerism through her creation, Project S.O.S. (Sharing Our Service). The Medfield Foundation will present the awards at a reception at the Kingsbury Club from 4:00 - 6:00 PM on April 4, to which the public is invited.

Gary Wheeler has served as Medfield Boy Scouts Troop 10 Scoutmaster for the past three years. He organized, planned, and attended the weekly meeting, monthly overnights, scoutmaster conferences and Patrol Leaders council meetings with the older boys, who run the troop. For the last 6 years Gary has attended Squanto Summer camp for the troop's week long overnight camp stay. Last summer Gary lead a contingent to the boundary waters of Minnesota for an 80 mile canoe trip. At last year's Klondike Derby his patrols came in first and second, and at the Massachusetts Jamboree his patrols earned the Baden Powell award, in both instances not only because Gary inspired the boys, but also because the boys have learned from his example and carefully organized their activities.

Gary's tireless efforts and leadership have fostered a remarkable level of pride and accomplishment in the troop and led to an unprecedented number of scouts achieving the prestigious rank of eagle - eight this year alone. Gary has successfully interested the older boys so that they stayed involved. Thomas Lueders, put it this way: "when I worked to earn the rank of Eagle, Mr. Wheeler was there to help me every step of the way to make sure that I truly earned and deserved the honor."

Gary was always available to help any scout and any parent. He inspired everyone associated with Troop 10 with his own commitment, dedication and enthusiasm. Gary made sure things happened right, kept notes constantly to improve things, adjusted on the fly, and most importantly Gary kept the boys motivated. Simply put, the scouting program under Gary's leadership changed the lives of his scouts and their parents.

Tessa Komine, a senior at Medfield High School, has already volunteered for over 10 years in Medfield, for the Children's Library, the Animal Shelter, the Chancel Choir at the United Church of Christ, and most she recently executed an ambitious Girl Scout Gold Award Project to encourage volunteerism amongst Medfield youth. Capping her ten years as a Girl Scout, Tessa

created a year-long program she christened Project: S.O.S. (Sharing Our Service) organizing other girls to together perform diverse community service projects around town. Over 75 girls participated and over 950 people benefitted from Project: S.O.S., which made blankets for the Thomas-Upham House, cooked soups and stews and held a Valentine's dance for the Council on Aging, stocked the Medfield Food Pantry, stuffed activity bags for veterans, made 100 invitations to the Medfield Relay for Life event, among other projects. Project: S.O.S. was so successful and well received that Tessa continued it a second year.

Tessa interned on various aspects of "Fenway to the Runway," a fund raiser for the Red Sox Foundation, she provided assistance to campers as a camp counselor and stable-hand during Equestrian Day Camp at Boggastow Farm, she volunteered for three years through Youthworks! doing work mission projects in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, Queens, New York, and Houma, Louisiana. Tessa was a World Vision 30 Hour Famine Participant for three years to help raise funds and awareness for world hunger. Tessa won a Daily Point of Light Award from the Points of Light Foundation, a national award for efforts in youth volunteerism, and earned a Presidential Volunteer Service Award at the Gold Level for three years for a combined total of over 800 hours of service.

Tessa was a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. She earned a Certificate of Appreciation from the Veteran's Administration Boston Healthcare System and Girl Scouts Gold Career and Gold Leadership Awards. She has taken honors courses both at Medfield High School and Laurel Springs School, a distance learning school. Tessa has been active in Girl Scouts, the Senior High Fellowship Group at the United Church of Christ, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Warriors for the Homeless, Medfield Music Association, Northeastern New England Choristers Guild, music and theater productions, and as an equestrian. Next year Tessa will attend Northeastern University's School of Business Administration.

This year, the other following extraordinary people were nominated to be the Medfield Foundation volunteers of the year, all of whom have done remarkable things for Medfield:

- Sonja Johanson as the Victory Garden Coordinator at the Wheelock School,
- Jack Daly as the founder of the Medfield Fall Baseball League,
- Bill Hunter for organizing sports leagues,
- Katherine Steeger as the Girl Scout Coordinator,
- Bill Johnson for FOSI,
- Suzi Garrity for the Angel Run,
- Beth Eby for the Medfield Food Cupboard and the tennis courts at MHS,
- Tim Bonfatti for the Permanent School Building Committee and capital projects advisory group,
- Richard DeSorgher as the town historian, football announcer and Medfield "citizen,"
- Cheryl O'Malley for work on the Dwight Derby House, and
- Troop 10 Eagle Scouts Thomas Lueders, Luke Sullivan, Brendan Quinn, Hunter Fellman Greene, Brian Wheeler, Patrick McFetridge, Rob Piersak, Sam Dickinson, Coleman Tishler, and Nick Pericles for 12 years of scouting and 10 eagle projects.

In 2008 the Medfield Foundation began formally recognizing by name exceptional individual volunteers as the Medfield Foundation Volunteers of the Year, and Henry Marcel was the first

recipient. The extraordinary efforts of individual volunteers have made a special marked difference to the quality of life in Medfield, for which the Medfield Foundation honors all our volunteers. Annually in the spring, the Medfield Foundation names the Medfield Foundation Volunteers of the Year, selected from amongst the materials on each nominees submitted by the public at www.MedfieldFoundation.org. The Medfield Foundation relies exclusively upon the submitted materials when selecting its volunteer of the year.