



# Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village, Ohio 44140 (440)-871-2900 [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
SHAWN SALAMONE 440-871-2900 EXT. 207

## **PEOPLE POWER TOUTED AT LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER** *NEARLY 300 VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED FOR MORE THAN 7,000 HOURS OF SERVICE*

Bay Village, Ohio --- The impact of "people power" took center stage at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center on Saturday as nearly 300 volunteers, who put in a whopping 7,000 hours in each of calendar years 2006 and 2007, were honored with a recognition brunch. "Our volunteers contribute to virtually every facet of our organization," said Director of Community Relations and Fundraising Renee Burlsem. "Whether it's animal care or special events, education or administration, they allow us to take our non-profit mission to the next level."

A number of volunteers were singled out for special recognition on Saturday including 2006 Volunteer of the Year, Becca Huntington, who spent countless hours chairing the Center's annual Family Fun Fest committee, and also played a lead role in the Silent Auction at the Center's Annual September Benefit. Jenn Dyke was honored as the 2007 Volunteer of the Year for her tireless work as a Wildlife Presenter. "It's not easy choosing a single volunteer from a long list of fantastic people, but both of these honorees put in long hours and help us in so many different ways," Burslem said.

The Center's roster of exceptional volunteers is not limited to adults. A number of teenagers involved in the popular Naturalist Assistants Program were honored as well, and two graduating High School Seniors received scholarships from the Women's Board. The Center acknowledged service at three thresholds of hours, based on age. "The gift of time is precious," said Volunteer Coordinator Julie Mistur. "We want our volunteers to know that we recognize and appreciate the tremendous value of their contributions." All volunteers who attended were treated to brunch, a raffle and a planetarium show.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center provides wildlife exhibits and rehabilitation, planetarium and nature education programming to more than 190,000 visitors every year. Although the Center is located in Huntington Reservation, it is a separate, non-profit organization and is not supported by tax dollars. "Community support for our mission, through the donation of time and money is crucial to our success," said Center Executive Director Larry D. Richardson.

The Center is currently recruiting volunteers to help children at Wild Summer Reading Camp in July and August. Volunteer opportunities are listed on the Center's website at [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org) and you can fill out a volunteer application online as well.