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**CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF
“FIND IT. DO IT. SHARE IT.” CONTEST**

Contest Highlights Inspiring Volunteer Stories from Across the State

Sacramento, CA (Oct. 19, 2007) – CaliforniaVolunteers (the state agency that promotes service and volunteerism in California) today announced two winners of the statewide “Find It. Do It. Share It.” Contest – Nancy Denen of San Diego and Osnat (Nati) Oron of San Rafael. The Walt Disney Company-sponsored contest encouraged Californians to submit their personal volunteer stories in an effort to inspire others to *find* a service opportunity that matches their interests, *do* something to help make a difference and *share* their experience with others.

On CaliforniaVolunteers.org, individuals across the state submitted personal volunteer experiences that strengthened their commitment to service. Nancy Denen, a lifelong volunteer, told of her weekly visits to nursing homes and hospice facilities along with her cat every week after discovering the power of animals to bring comfort and companionship to the sick and elderly. Nati Oron told of how her personal and challenging experience of moving to the U.S. as a young girl instilled a deep-rooted commitment to helping others facing challenges of their own. She now serves as president of three volunteer clubs at her high school, organizes an annual fundraiser to build wells in Africa and has created a peer counseling program to help at-risk students.

“The many inspiring volunteer stories demonstrate the wide variety of ways Californians are improving their communities,” said Karen Baker, executive director of CaliforniaVolunteers. “Nancy and Nati serve as shining examples of how much we can accomplish together.”

All “Find It. Do It. Share It.” Contest entries were judged based on originality, creativity and relevance to the contest theme. The winning contest entries were chosen by CaliforniaVolunteers from a pool of statewide finalists selected by local volunteer organizations throughout California. Nati Oron was selected as a finalist by the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership of Marin (www.cvnl.org) and Nancy Denen was selected as a finalist by Volunteer San Diego (www.volunteersandiego.org). Both contest winners will receive a trip for four to the Disneyland® Resort and an opportunity to participate in a volunteer project with Disney VoluntEARS for Family Volunteer day on November 17. The winners also have an opportunity to attend The Women’s Conference in Long Beach on October 23.

The “Find It. Do It. Share It.” Contest is one of many ways CaliforniaVolunteers is working to raise the profile of volunteerism in the state and to increase the number of Californians investing in their communities through service projects. To read the full stories of the contest winners as well as other local finalists, or for more information about how to find local volunteer opportunities throughout the state, visit CaliforniaVolunteers.org.

ABOUT CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

CaliforniaVolunteers is the state agency that manages programs and initiatives to increase the number of Californians involved with service and volunteering. Through the agency’s innovative Web site, CaliforniaVolunteers.org, individuals and families can search for volunteer opportunities throughout the state that match their interests. Today, there are nearly 30,000 volunteer opportunities available throughout California involving the arts, education, animals, disaster preparedness, the environment and other areas of interest.

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