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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOODLINK NAMED AS NEW YORK STATE REGIONAL VOLUNTEER CENTER Coordinating an effort throughout the Genesee Valley/Finger Lakes Region

Rochester, NY - Foodlink is proud to announce that we have been selected by the State Commission on National & Community Service to operate as one of nine Regional Volunteer Centers. New York State recently was awarded a Volunteer Generation Grant by the Corporation for National and Community Service to establish and enhance a regional volunteer infrastructure throughout New York State.

Foodlink will support local volunteer agencies and initiatives for the Genesee Valley/Finger Lakes region as the lead agency on behalf of the Community/University Partnership Project (CUPP). The CUPP provides transformational capacity-building and other educational services for nonprofit organizations in order to build healthy, sustainable, and just communities. The Genesee Valley/Finger Lakes region includes Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties – all within the service area of Foodlink.

As the Genesee Valley/Finger Lakes Regional Volunteer Center, we will:

- help individual volunteers find service opportunities with local non-profit agencies within the region;
- support the development of an on-line statewide network of volunteer opportunities;
- measure the local impact of volunteer activity to share through a formal New York-specific study;
- deliver training and technical assistance to support local volunteer organizations.

Foodlink is in the process of developing our on-line Regional Volunteer Opportunity Portal, which will provide an easy tool to match individuals with local service opportunities or projects. Until that time, feel free to visit the *New Yorkers Volunteer* website at www.NewYorkersVolunteer.ny.gov. Volunteer agencies are also encouraged to work with us to promote volunteer opportunities with their agency or projects they are planning for National Days of Service to involve local citizens who are looking to give back. For more information about the Regional Volunteer Center at Foodlink, please contact Sheila Williams.

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Foodlink, the regional food bank, provides food, nutrition, education, and resources in Central and Western New York. Our mission is to provide hunger relief, eliminate the root causes of hunger, improve health, and promote economic development. We do this through the distribution of food to a network of agencies and by empowering individuals through nutritional and agricultural programs