PR – Ears to You

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. - DisneyHand, worldwide outreach for The Walt Disney Company, is providing the funds through its EARS to You program, which recognizes Cast Members for volunteerism through financial contributions to the charities of their choice.

Disney VoluntEARS are encouraged to apply for an EARS to You grant of up to $1,000, payable to an eligible non-profit organization of their choice. The amount of the contribution is based on the number of hours the Cast Member volunteers in a calendar year:

            10 to 24 volunteer hours per year $100

            25 to 49 volunteer hours per year $250

            50 to 74 volunteer hours per year $500

            75 or more volunteer hours per year $1,000

 ”Our Walt Disney World Resort VoluntEARS dedicate thousands of hours every year to improving the lives of their neighbors in Central Florida,” said Diane Ledder, director of community relations for Walt Disney World Co. “While the satisfaction they receive from helping others in their community is often reward enough, we’re pleased to be able to honor our Cast Members by contributing financial resources to the causes that are important to them.”

DisneyHand, worldwide outreach for The Walt Disney Company, is dedicated to making the wishes of families and children a reality through public service initiatives, community outreach and volunteerism in the areas of compassion, learning, the arts and the environment. In 2004, DisneyHand contributed more than $165 million in cash, in-kind support and public service airtime globally, while Disney VoluntEARS contributed more than 461,000 hours to 1,852 outreach projects.

Locally, Walt Disney World Resort donated $24.7 million in cash and in-kind support to the Central Florida community in 2004. Walt Disney World Cast Members also volunteered more than 185,000 hours to benefit local non-profit organizations.