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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Honoring HSI Volunteers Who Give So Much!

At a ceremony held at Water Street Inn-Stillwater, HSI honored their over 900 volunteers. The celebration included presentations to HSI's Volunteer of the Year and Outstanding Community Contribution Award.

Each year the Paul Wolff Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to volunteers who represent the spirit of volunteerism and have made a significant difference in the community. This year's recipients truly have done that.

St. Charles Quilters Group was organized in January, 1994 with the purpose of using stashes of fabric accumulated in drawers and boxes for a good cause. The St. Charles Council of Catholic Women donated "seed" funds for their start-up supplies. All materials for the making of their gifts are donated except for the batting, which is purchased from proceeds of an annual spring quilt raffle. "These dedicated women meet twice a month at St. Charles Church in Bayport. They shared that it is an afternoon of problem solving and fellowship; along with the knot tying, basting and that no special talents are required; just scissors and a smile," shares HSI Board Chair Dr. Steve Scallon, presenter of the awards. "All the beautiful items made with many loving hands are then given to charitable causes."

HSI's Outstanding Community Organization of the Year was presented to Lake Elmo Bank for their support and concern for the problems in our communities that are central to HSI's mission. 25 years ago, Lake Elmo Bank began their relationship with HSI. "We became interested in HSI because they were a more direct hands-on community organization. From the start Lake Elmo Bank has always had a higher number of staff involved because of who HSI is.

Their work is well respected within the community,” states Dan Raleigh, President of Lake Elmo Bank.

Joyce Flynn, HSI Director of Development and Community Relations states, “Lake Elmo Bank’s strong commitment to the community is impressive. They have always had a deep concern and care for those who may be in need.” Over the years, volunteer staff from the bank have delivered thousands of meals through HSI’s Meals on Wheels program, served on HSI charity golf classic committees and assisted with several children’s programs. Don Raleigh, past Bank president served as a Board of Directors. Bruce Beutel, an officer of Lake Elmo Bank, and his wife Arline, also an employee of the bank for 25 years, are still actively involved with the organization. Arline, a HSI Board member, began her service in 1985 and has served as board chair. Bruce is a current volunteer through Meals on Wheels. “In order for our community to be strong and prosper, our employees’ feel it is very important to give back to the communities in which we work and live,” continues Raleigh. Lake Elmo has given time and resources to numerous non-profits such as St. Croix Area United Way, local schools and Community Volunteer Services.

HSI's many caring volunteers donate their time to Meals on Wheels, transportation, the Therapeutic Learning Center, Circle of Friends-an Adult Day programs, Rape and Sexual Violence Center and the Jobs Program. Volunteers also serve on the Board of Directors and Advisory committees for chemical health, adult and children’s mental health and Resources for ElderCare.

HSI (Human Services, Inc.), a nonprofit organization, with 7 offices located throughout Washington county, annually serve more than 8,600 residents by providing multi-services for children and their families, adolescents and adults who face daily struggles related to emotional disorder, mental illness, chemical dependency, domestic or sexual abuse. In addition, HSI provides services for the elderly and adults with disabilities, which includes nutritional services (Meals on Wheels and congregate dining) and door-through-door transportation. For more information about HSI call 615/777-5222 or visit HSI web site at www.hsicares.org.

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