Philadelphia University to Recognize Philabundance Founder and Student Volunteers at Martin Luther King Jr. Day Call-to-Service Breakfast

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 16, 2008 – Pamela Rainey Lawler, the founder of Philabundance, and five Philadelphia University students who exemplify a commitment to service will be recognized at a Martin Luther King Jr. day celebration and call-to-service breakfast on Monday, Jan. 21 at 9 a.m.

The event, sponsored by the student newspaper The Text and the Office of Academic Affairs, is designed to recognize leaders in the Philadelphia region and on campus who have provided exemplary service to their communities.

“It’s fitting that on this day that we acknowledge the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we also recognize those who continue to be inspired to help make their communities and world a better place,” said James Savoie, assistant vice president for academic affairs.

“The Martin Luther King Day of Service breakfast is designed to encourage students to help others within the surrounding area,” said Brittany Bigley, a junior Graphic Design Communication major and editor-in-chief of The Text. “We also want to acknowledge the students who are already involved in community service and the example they set for other students.”

Founded by Lawler in 1984, Philabundance today is the Delaware Valley’s largest food bank and food rescue operation. Philabundance works to end hunger and malnutrition by acquiring food from such sources as restaurants, bakeries, supermarkets and individuals and distributing it through organizations serving people in need. Today, the organization provides food for about 65,000 people each week.

In addition to Lawler, five Philadelphia University students will be recognized for their commitment to service. They are Steven E. Caplan ’10, Finance; Timothy A.
Carroll ’08, Finance; Leslie Giovinazzo ’08, Psychology; Ashley J. Phelps ’09, Fashion Design; and Lauren Toepel’09, Psychology.

The breakfast and recognition ceremony will take place 9 a.m. in The Kanbar Campus Center Performance Space, which is located off Henry Avenue in East Falls.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,200 full-and part-time students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. The University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts and Science and Health.

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