

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Molly Shepherd Nichols**

**919.781.0156, ext. 110**

**STEPUP MINISTRY ANNOUNCES KEY AWARDS**

RALEIGH, Dec. 8, 2008 – StepUP Ministry, a local non-profit dedicated to preparing people to become self-sufficient, today announced the recipients of its annual volunteer and community support awards.

Longtime StepUP partners Brian J. Kelleher and the Junior League of Raleigh have been awarded StepUP highest honor, the Jubilee Volunteer Award. Triangle Cleaning Service has been awarded the Outstanding Community Support Award.

Jennie Armstrong, executive director of StepUP Ministry, said “We’re truly excited to recognize these exceptional award recipients. We are grateful for the tremendous value the volunteers and local employers who partner with us add to StepUP and its programs.”

The Jubilee Volunteer Award recognizes individuals or organizations that embody the ideals of StepUP and make extraordinary contributions to the agency’s success and sustainability. The award winners demonstrate a longstanding commitment, passion and energy to the core vision of StepUP.

“Since the early 1990s, Brian Kelleher has continued to give his time and talents each week as a volunteer mentor,” Armstrong said. “He demonstrates the qualities any non-profit organization would want in a volunteer...commitment, strong character and the ability to make a positive impact in the lives of StepUP participants.”

“The Junior League of Raleigh has been a collaborative partner since StepUP’s inception and its members have given more than 9,000 volunteer hours to the program. The Junior League embodies the spirit of volunteerism by providing mentors, leadership training and grant funds to support the StepUP children’s program.”

The Outstanding Community Support Award recognizes a local business that has shown exceptional support of and participation in StepUP’s Jubilee Jobs employment initiative. Over the last year, Triangle Cleaning Service, owned by Norman and Rosa Oates, has employed eight participants in the Jubilee Jobs program.

“We greatly appreciate the partnership we have with Triangle Cleaning Service,” Armstrong said. “We have worked closely with this Raleigh business for many years, and both our organization and the Jubilee Job graduates who have been employed by Triangle benefit tremendously from the ongoing relationship.”

StepUP Ministry is a non-profit interfaith organization that provides individuals and families in Wake County with a second chance in life through job- and life-skills development. StepUP’s Jubilee Jobs and Life Skills programs successfully served hundreds of participants in 2008 alone, involving 130 employers and 280 volunteers.

*Raleigh-based StepUP Ministry, founded in 1988, is an interfaith community that prepares people who are ready and willing to make positive changes in their lives to become self-sufficient. This goal is accomplished through a nine month, phased program leading to safe, affordable housing and stable, life-sustaining employment. Components of StepUP include the Jubilee Jobs employment initiative and the Life Skills program, which addresses issues such as financial literacy, physical and mental health and positive relationships. For more information, visit [www.step-up.us](http://www.step-up.us) or call 919.781.0156.*

####