

**The Office of the Defiance County Environmental and Administrative Services
Honored by Keep America Beautiful
for High Performance Achieved in 2008**

Local Organization Recognized as Among the “Best of the Best” Nationwide

Defiance, Ohio – Jan 23, 2009 – The Defiance County Environmental and Administrative Services has received the Keep America Beautiful President’s Circle Award at the President’s Circle Award Luncheon, which took place during Keep America Beautiful’s 55th annual National Conference in Washington, D.C.. The President’s Circle Award recognizes exemplary performance made by certified affiliates of the national nonprofit to reduce litter, minimize waste, and beautify and improve their local communities.

In qualifying for a President’s Circle Award, The Defiance County Environmental and Administrative Services has met Keep America Beautiful’s standards of excellence by conducting an annual Litter Index, calculating the affiliate’s cost/benefit ratio, and engaging volunteers to take greater responsibility for their community environment. In addition, award recipients must conduct activities in Keep America Beautiful’s three core focus areas of litter prevention, waste reduction, and beautification/community improvement.

Defiance County Environmental and Administrative Services conducts road side litter collection every year and its crews pick up material from every mile of every road in the County. Our program provides in school classroom presentations to all schools in the County. We focus on Grades K, 2nd and 4th. The Environmental program has 15 drop off recycling sites manned for one day each month. All citizens of the County have a drop off location within six miles of their residence. The Defiance Environmental Services Office is part of the Joint Four County Solid Waste District of Defiance-Fulton-Paulding & Williams. We have achieved a 31% recycling rate of residential and commercial waste and the industrial waste stream is at 67%. Tim Houck Program Director said: “We know to be as successful as we are it is important to participate in programs such as Keep America Beautiful. We are a proud partner with KAB and look forward to many future successful years.” Tim invites everyone to view the program activities on the web at <http://www.defiance-county.com/esl/index.html>

“Keep America Beautiful is committed to making a simple premise work in communities across the nation – engaging individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their community environments. Keep America Beautiful President & CEO Matthew McKenna said: “One of the national organization’s most effective tools is the work of our grassroots network of affiliate organizations, which has an impact on millions of Americans each year.

“Our affiliates are providing real solutions to problems like litter, graffiti, illegal dumping and other community blights,” added McKenna, in announcing the 2008 award winners. “By enabling people of all ages to participate in community improvement efforts, The Defiance County Environmental and Administrative Services is represented among the best in promoting the values Keep America Beautiful espouses nationally.”

- **Litter Index:** The Keep America Beautiful Litter Index is a tool used by KAB affiliates to measure litter from year to year, identify “hot spots,” and track their progress in remedying the problem. The tool uses a four-point Likert-type ordinal scale (ranging from 1 – no litter to 4 – extremely littered). The Litter Index can be applied to rural or urban areas of any population size. Each year, affiliates grade their communities during a drive-by examination of the same areas at the same time of the year. This provides an indication of the success of each community’s anti-littering education and other anti-littering programs. The Defiance County Environmental and Administrative Services has conducted its Litter Index this past July; Defiance, rated a 1.47 on the Litter Index scale. According to Tim Houck: “this score is a very good score and we have historically scored between 1.3 and 1.9.

Our citizens are doing a wonderful job and we hope that those that litter will take heed and dispose of their trash in a proper way”.

About Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

Keep America Beautiful, Inc., established in 1953, is the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. With a network of nearly 1,000 affiliate and participating organizations, Keep America Beautiful forms public-private partnerships and programs that engage individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their community environments. For additional information, visit www.kab.org.

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