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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## TLC-The Treatment and Learning Centers Honored at Kennedy Center for Helping Local Youth with Disabilities *The HSC Foundation Hosts Annual LEAP Awards Evening*

WASHINGTON – November 9, 2009 – When young people with disabilities become adults, it can be an extremely difficult transition. [TLC-The Treatment and Learning Centers](#) was honored by the [HSC Foundation](#) at the LEAP Awards Evening at the Kennedy Center on October 15, 2009 for its role in helping youth in the expanded Washington metropolitan area ease that transition. Through LEAP, or the Life Enrichment Awards Program, TLC was able to help 31 youth, including:

Joanna, a client of [TLC's Outcomes Service](#) for adults with disabilities, who was recently promoted from kennel attendant to veterinary technician and needed to purchase work-appropriate attire for her new position; and

Chase, a recent graduate of [TLC's Katherine Thomas High School](#), who needed to enroll in a four-week portfolio development class as a pre-requisite for being accepted in Montgomery College's arts program.

"The LEAP program is truly innovative, as it helps ensure transitioning youth a successful bridge from the school environment into the adult world," said **Debbie Ezrin**, TLC Director of Development. "Both TLC and HSC are committed to providing transitioning youth the tools they need to ensure a lifetime of independence through employment."

TLC is one of 22 community partner organizations that worked with the HSC Foundation this year. The HSC Foundation provides funding to these partners to purchase goods and services that the youth would otherwise not be able to afford.

The system is efficient because it allows TLC and the 21 other partners to immediately recognize the need, then deliver goods and services promptly to youth ages 14 to 26. The immediacy of the program prevents the issue from spiraling into a problem that could have permanent effects.

"If we supplied these goods and services ourselves, the application process would take too long," said **Jessie MacKinnon**, Vice President of Program and Partnership Development at the HSC Foundation. "Our community partners can identify when someone is in need and act quickly to make sure the snag in the transition is resolved. TLC allows us to continue helping those with disabilities become successful adults."

LEAP falls under the HSC Foundation's Youth Transitions Initiative, which has the broader focus of assisting youth with disabilities transition from school to adulthood and the world of work.

*A Non-Profit Organization Serving Individuals With Special Needs Since 1950*

## About TLC-The Treatment and Learning Centers

TLC is a local non-profit organization based in Rockville that specializes in programs and services for individuals with special needs, providing educational, therapeutic and vocational services across the lifespan. Celebrating 60 years of service to the community in 2010, TLC improves lives and expands possibilities for more than 2,000 individuals served annually. For more information, visit [www.ttlc.org](http://www.ttlc.org).

## About HSC Foundation

The HSC Foundation is dedicated to improving access to services for individuals who face challenging social and health care barriers due to disability, chronic illness, or other circumstances that present unique needs. It puts a special emphasis on youth, especially those who are transitioning into adulthood. To learn more about the HSC Foundation, visit <http://www.hscfoundation.org>.

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The Outcomes Service • The Family Hearing Center • The Katherine Thomas School  
The Early Learning Center • The Outpatient Services • The Testing and Tutoring Service • TLC's Summer Programs