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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION CENTER SERVING NEW KENT CITIZENS NOW OPEN

NEW KENT VIRGINIA, MARCH 9, 2009: The Employment Transition Center (ETC) – a regional effort supported by Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent and Powhatan counties and the City of Richmond to aid recently displaced workers from the eight localities – opened its doors at 9 a.m. Monday, March 9, at the site of the former Innsbrook Branch Library, 4060 Innslake Drive.

The ETC will offer a variety of services on a walk-in basis to workers experiencing layoffs since Dec. 1, 2008 who live in the eight localities. The center will maintain regular hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Henrico County is donating the space and acting as fiscal agent for the center, which will be operated under the auspices of the Capital Region Workforce

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Partnership. Staff from area nonprofit agencies and the participating localities also will be on hand to provide additional services.

"As a rural county, New Kent is pleased to have the opportunity to join with other localities in the region in support of our displaced workers," said County Administrator, John A. Budesky.

The ETC combines a variety of services into a single location, bringing together employment services and a number of human-services functions. Services include:

- Assistance with applying for unemployment benefits;
- Determining eligibility to receive workforce development services under the Workforce Investment Act;
- Skills assessment testing and identifying potential job opportunities;
- Technology assistance, such as e-mail accounts and electronic resumes;
- Screening eligibility for mortgage, fuel and emergency food assistance;
- Screening eligibility for Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps);
- Classes including credit and debt counseling, household budgeting and stress management; and

- Workforce-related workshops and activities including job clubs, resume development and employer fairs.

Localities anticipate large numbers of area residents to seek services from the ETC at its opening and asks for their patience in case they encounter long lines.

Residents wanting to access services through the Employment Transition Center must have been laid off from their jobs after Dec. 1, 2008. For more information, contact the ETC at (804) 273-6260.

Others needing assistance with employment can access similar services at any Capital Region Workforce Center, located at 5410 Williamsburg Road, 226-1941; 6301 Midlothian Turnpike, 675-9910; and 7333 Whitepine Road, 271-8510.

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