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## **Auntie Litter wins EPA Clean Air Excellence Award**

Birmingham, AL— Auntie Litter, Inc will receive the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Air Excellence Award for Education & Outreach for its original program "Life Is A Breath of Fresh Air". The award will be presented by EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson at an awards ceremony to be held May 28, 2008 at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC.

The annual awards program recognizes and honors both individuals and organizations that have undertaken the risks of innovation, served as pioneers in their fields, and have improved air quality by either directly or indirectly reducing emissions of criteria pollutants or hazardous/toxic air pollutants. Further, award winning programs must be able to demonstrate that it is replicable and sustainable.

Auntie Litter is being recognized for her Clean Air program targeted to children in grades K-5. Auntie Litter developed the Clean Air program which is sponsored by the Alabama Partners for Clean Air (APCA) and currently being presented in schools throughout Jefferson and Shelby Counties. Segments of the campaign include live shows featuring the character Auntie Litter, distribution of educational materials and posters, and installation of "Idle Free Zone" signs for participating schools. The signs read, "Do Your Share for Cleaner Air, Turn the Key, Be Idle Free." The goal of this initiative is to remind drivers to reduce harmful emissions by turning off engines while in the carpool lines.

"We are honored that the EPA recognizes the hard work we and others in the greater Birmingham area impacted by ground-level ozone and particle pollution are doing on this important environmental and public health issue," said Auntie Litter Executive Director and Founder Pat Mitchell. "Central Alabama has a long way to go before the problem is solved but we have come a long way too. The American Lung Association still rates Birmingham low for particle air pollution but thanks to Auntie Litter and APCA we ARE making progress."

"Children are our best allies for protecting our air," said Ms. Mitchell. "If we can reach them early with our positive message they will carry the lessons with them into adulthood and for life."

Auntie Litter, Inc is a national award winning non-profit organized and founded in 1990 by Mitchell, who was a former school teacher. The organization is dedicated to promoting environmental protection and litter prevention education and has won numerous awards for its innovative educational programs based on the anti-litter character, "Auntie Litter."

For media inquiries or to schedule interviews with Auntie Litter, Inc., please contact LaShanna R. Tripp at 205-879-3009 or [LTripp@AuntieLitter.org](mailto:LTripp@AuntieLitter.org).

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