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Over 1,000 Volunteers Clean Ohio Roadways

Keep Ohio Beautiful and Affiliates Kick Off the Great American Cleanup

(Ohio) April 2, 2009 –Over 1,000 volunteers participated in the State Roadway Cleanup on March 27-28 as part of the 2009 *Great American Cleanup of Ohio*. The event is coordinated by Keep Ohio Beautiful and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and is sponsored by CSX Transportation. Keep Ohio Beautiful (KOB) affiliates around the state partnered with local ODOT Districts to spearhead these roadway cleanup events. Keep America Beautiful, Inc. sponsors the *Great American Cleanup* (GAC) nationally.

2009 State Roadway Results:

- Over 1,000 volunteers participated in events coordinated by Keep Ohio Beautiful affiliates. Additional volunteers were involved through Adopt-a-Highway groups around the state.
- Volunteers collected 1,145 bags of trash during the event. That equals 22,900 lbs! Volunteers also took the extra step to separate recyclables from trash. 990 lbs. of recyclable materials were diverted from the landfill.
- Keep Montgomery County Beautiful hosted the 2009 Kickoff event at the Dayton Dragons stadium on Saturday. Over 250 volunteers worked to clean roadways throughout the County. Volunteers in Montgomery County alone collected 880 lbs of recyclable materials!
- 342 volunteers worked with Keep Columbus Beautiful in the Kick Butt Columbus event. Volunteers focused on cleaning up cigarette litter at 30 interchanges. They covered a total of 74,705 feet of highway ramps and collected 62,294 cigarette butts! If these butts were laid end to end it would equal almost a mile in length.

GAC events will continue through April and May across the Buckeye state. Governor Ted Strickland proclaimed April “Keep Ohio Beautiful Month” in honor of all the GAC activities being planned by KOB affiliates. “The Great American Cleanup is a community improvement event that involves neighbors, family and friends working together for a clean and green neighborhood,” said Kerry Crossen, Executive Director for Keep Ohio Beautiful.

Here in Ohio and across the nation, the 2009 Great American Cleanup is reminding families that a better environment for us all starts in our own communities, and the work we do in our own backyards and towns affects our entire planet.

“For each of our millions of volunteers nationwide, ‘green’ starts with his or her decision to help clean up the local park or the abandoned building lot, or the community garden or any of the hundreds of sites across the country where volunteers work to better the community,” said Matthew McKenna, president and CEO of Keep America Beautiful. “We’re reminding our friends and our neighbors that ‘Green Starts Here,’ but the impact we have goes beyond our town borders.”

Keep Ohio Beautiful, Inc. (KOB) is a nonprofit organization empowering individuals and Ohio communities to take greater responsibility for improving the sustainability of our environment through litter prevention, beautification and waste reduction.