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Tourism Cares for Conservation Volunteers International Program *Nonprofit Awards \$7,500 Grant*

Canton, MA (March 3, 2011) – Tourism Cares, the tourism industry’s premier charitable organization for preservation, conservation, restoration and education in tourism, awarded \$7,500 to the Conservation Volunteers International Program of Santa Barbara, CA for Torres del Paine National Park, Chile, as part of the second group of 2010 Worldwide Grantees. The organization is among six global recipients this season to receive one of the prestigious grants, which are presented to worthy tourism-related non-profit organizations in need of support.



The mission of the Conservation Volunteers International Program is to conserve and protect some of the world’s greatest landscapes and cultural sites through voluntourism expeditions. Staffed entirely by volunteers, the organization provides opportunities for ordinary citizens to do extraordinary volunteer service.

“The Tourism Cares Worldwide Grant will allow us to protect resources and provide safe access to a beautiful area in Torres del Paine National Park in the Patagonia Region of Chile. It will enable us to help park rangers begin to bridge some of the dangerous ravines that cross major trails,” said Richard Tobin, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Conservation Volunteers International Program. He added, “We are excited about this grant and very grateful to Tourism Cares for helping us make this project possible.”

The Tourism Cares Worldwide Grant funding will support this national park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, which has exceptional ecological significance and receives 120,000 visitors annually. The grant will assist the park in restoration efforts and improving its trails. It will help the site construct a 140-foot pedestrian suspension bridge across the Grey Glacier Quebrada, a deep gorge in the park, to improve public safety.

Tourism Cares second group of 2010 Worldwide Grants have been awarded to five other global recipients: the Falmouth Heritage Renewal, Inc., The Plains, VA for Jamaica; Slovak Ornithological Society (SOS) BirdLife Slovakia, Bratislava, Slovakia; The Gloucester Adventure, Inc., Gloucester, MA; Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, MA; and the Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA.

“Tourism Cares has long been an advocate of the conservation, preservation, and restoration of places that are meaningful to people wanting to experience authenticity when

they travel,” said Bruce Beckham, Executive Director of Tourism Cares. “The worthy recipients of the Tourism Cares Worldwide Grants have demonstrated goals that are in line with Tourism Cares and we are excited that our mission continues to expand its reach both here in the United States and overseas.”

Tourism Cares is a non-profit public charity whose mission is to preserve the travel experience for future generations. It accomplishes this by mobilizing the travel and tourism industry and travelers to give back to society through grants to natural, cultural and historical sites throughout the world; through academic and professional development scholarships for students of hospitality, travel and tourism; and through the organization of volunteer efforts to clean up and restore tourism-related sites in need of care and rejuvenation. For more information about Tourism Cares, please visit www.TourismCares.org.

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