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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THE SKILLSOURCE GROUP INC. ANNOUNCES NEW GRANTS FROM
THE WACHOVIA FOUNDATION AND THE GANNETT FOUNDATION

December 16, 2008 – The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. (*SkillSource*), the non-profit arm of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board (NVWIB), has received a \$10,000 grant award from the Wachovia Foundation for support of the *SkillSource* – Fairfax County Sheriff Pre-Release Employment Center.

The *SkillSource* – Fairfax County Sheriff Pre-Release Employment Center opened in May 2008 and is adjacent to the Fairfax County Jail, the largest county-operated detention facility within the Commonwealth of Virginia. This Center, the first of its kind in a local Virginia jail, is utilized by inmates preparing for community reentry and who need additional information and skills to gain employment in Northern Virginia. The goal of the *SkillSource* – Fairfax County Sheriff Employment Center is to prevent recidivism by preparing inmates for community reentry, providing job search and labor market information, career guidance and skills training to be employed in Northern Virginia. Funding from the Wachovia Foundation will be used for inmate training and supportive employment services.

John E. Ritzert, Jr., the Chairman of the *SkillSource* Group, Inc. noted “through the private support of the Wachovia Foundation, the success of the *SkillSource* – Fairfax County Sheriff Pre-Release Employment Center will continue. Already, 86% of inmates using the Employment Center have been placed into employment at average annual wages exceeding \$20,000 which strengthens their goal of self-sufficiency. The ongoing work of the Fairfax Sheriff and *SkillSource* along with the resources of the Wachovia Foundation will allow this Center to assist even more inmates in becoming productive tax payers in the community”. Ritzert is an Attorney and Managing Shareholder at Ritzert & Leyton, P.C, a Northern Virginia area law firm.

Michael DelBene, Wachovia's Community Affairs Manager said “Our mission at the Wachovia Foundation is to build strong and vibrant communities, improve the quality of life and make a positive difference in the regions we serve. The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. is vital in accomplishing these goals and many others”. Todd W. Rowley, Senior Vice President for Commercial Banking with Wachovia Bank added “In the Northern Virginia and Greater Washington regional economy, companies continue to need committed and productive workers. The PRC Employment Center is supporting our region’s businesses while also changing lives and meeting a critical law enforcement need”. Rowley serves as a Board Member of the *SkillSource* Group, Inc.

SkillSource also received a \$5,000 grant from the Gannett Foundation of the DC Metro Area for primarily staffing and supportive services costs at the Employment Center.

For more information on the *SkillSource* Group, Inc. and the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board, visit www.myskillsource.org or call (703) 752-1606.

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