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TOURISM BRINGS \$1.166 BILLION TO CLAYTON COUNTY

Clayton County celebrates tourism as part of the nationwide celebration of National Tourism Week, May 4-12, 2013. This is an opportunity to champion the power of travel; National Tourism Week encourages tourism entities, governments and businesses to promote the message that "Tourism Matters."

Hosted by the Clayton County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCCVB), the National Tourism Week celebration highlights the economic impact of Clayton County's tourism industry, as well as, local community members who have shown exemplary support for the county's hospitality industry. The CCCVB plans to share statistics at the Board of Commissioners meeting on May 7th showing Clayton County's tourism products and services generated 30,880 hospitality related jobs last year that amounted to \$1.884 billion paid in payroll. The Clayton County Commissioners, on behalf of Clayton County citizens, will receive a symbolic check totaling \$1.166 billion representative of the economic impact of tourism expenditures generated by Clayton County's tourism products and services over the last year.

"Tourism affects everyone who lives and works in Clayton County," says Frenda Turner, Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau Interim Executive Director. "Besides seeing the impact in just our attractions and hotels, Clayton County's restaurants, gas stations, stores and many more businesses see and feel the impact. In 2012, tourism related jobs grew to 30,880 in Clayton County alone. Through the local and state sales tax generated from tourism, residents saved \$1,925 per household. Tourism is big business for Clayton County and it's a business that continues to grow."

As part of the celebration for National Tourism Week, the CCCVB will present the "Golden Tourism" award and the "Golden Service" award to two members of the community that provide a willingness and support to the tourism industry. The 2013 winner of the "Golden Tourism" award is the Clayton County Department of Economic Development. "The department as a whole supports the goals of the CCCVB to help grow tourism in Clayton County and we look forward to this partnership continuing to flourish," says Frenda Turner. The 2013 "Golden Service" award goes to Joyce Wright of Historical Jonesboro/Stately Oaks Plantation. "Joyce is a Tourism Ambassador on the front line that helps tourists directly and we appreciate her dedication in our industry," Turner says.

The Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau is the official tourism marketing agency for Clayton County. The CCCVB advertises and promotes the area to bring business to hotels, attractions, historical sites and meeting facilities within Clayton County and its neighboring communities.

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