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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE *SKILLSOURCE* GROUP, INC. RECEIVES UNITED WAY OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA GRANT TO EXPAND TICKET TO WORK INITIATIVE

January 29, 2014 -- The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. (the non-profit arm of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board) recently was awarded \$20,000 by the United Way of the National Capital Area (UWNCA) to provide job search and employment placement services for adults receiving Social Security Disability benefits, called the Ticket to Work Program. This funding will assist adults with disabilities, who reside in Prince William and Loudoun counties, in their efforts to secure employment.

Todd Rowley, the Chairman of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board and a Senior Vice President for Cardinal Bank, added: “We are honored to receive financial support from the United Way of the National Capital Area for our growing Northern Virginia Ticket to Work initiative. This new funding is a critical enhancement of our staff’s ability to serve more disabled adults that want to work and to enhance their self-sufficiency.”

SkillSource has greatly expanded outreach and workforce services for Social Security Administration Ticket Holders at its five (5) Northern Virginia *SkillSource* Centers since initiating the program in October 2010. As of December 2013, *SkillSource* has received over 800 inquiries from interested Ticket participants and currently has 84 Tickets under assignment. Since Program inception, 62 Ticket holders have been placed into employment. The United Way grant funding will be used to increase the number of Social Security Administration Ticket Holders placed into employment throughout the Northern Virginia region.

Hector Velez, Chairman of the *SkillSource* Group, Inc. and Executive Vice President HireStrategy, Inc., noted: “While our regional economy is clearly improving for both employers and job seekers alike, the unemployment rate for adults with a disability is unacceptably high. Many adults receiving Social Security Disability benefits want to work and to be recognized as a valued employee. The public workforce system has a key responsibility to connect disabled adult job seekers with our Northern Virginia business owners. *SkillSource* will collaborate with UWNCA and the many Northern Virginia businesses seeking to hire an outstanding employee through this initiative.”

The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. and the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board serve over 1.9 million residents and thousands of businesses within the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William and the cities of Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. For more information, please call (703) 752-1606 or visit www.myskillsource.org.

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