



CONTACT:

Jaci Feinstein
Volunteer San Diego
858-636-4123
jfeinstein@volunteersandiego.org

Christina Wessell Batcheler
Youth Service America
202-296-2992 x128
cbatcheler@ysa.org

SAN DIEGO YOUTH JOIN MILLIONS OF VOLUNTEERS FOR 20TH ANNUAL GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY, APRIL 21-27

WHAT: Volunteer San Diego, the city's main resource for supporting and strengthening community service, will mobilize more than 600 young people to participate in the 20th Annual Global Youth Service Day, Monday, April 21 through Sunday, April 27, in San Diego in over 25 projects county-wide.

For Volunteer San Diego's Global Youth Service Day 2008 *Signature Event*, SAVY (Students Actively Volunteer for You) Leaders will be renovating three separate Head Start locations in National City - volunteers will join in completing tasks such as painting, decorating, gardening, organizing and cleaning.

Global Youth Service Day (April 21-27, 2008), the largest service event in the world, mobilizes youth to identify and address the needs of their communities through service-learning and community service. Research continues to support service-learning programs as an effective method to increase student academic achievement. According to a leading researcher in service-learning, Shelley Billig from RMC Research Corporation, "Service-learning, when implemented with high quality, yields statistically significant impacts on academic achievement, civic engagement, acquisition of leadership skills, and personal/social development." The presenting sponsor of Global Youth Service Day is the State Farm Companies Foundation.

WHO: 150 youth and their families

WHEN: Saturday April 26, 2008, 8am – 2pm

WHERE: Plaza Head Start, 1805 E 17th St, National City, CA 91950-5005

WEB: For more information about Global Youth Service Day and to see a comprehensive project list, visit www.volunteersandiego.org or www.YSA.org/map or www.YSA.org/gysd.

ON SITE

CONTACT: Jaci Feinstein, Office (858-636-4123), Cell (412-303-2568),
jfeinstein@volunteersandiego.org

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About Volunteer San Diego: Volunteer San Diego is the premier provider of volunteer programs and services in San Diego County. Annually, Volunteer San Diego helps nearly 30,000 individuals, families, corporate and community groups find volunteer opportunities at 800 community organizations. Volunteers of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are mobilized to feed the homeless, serve seniors, beautify the environment, read to youth and change San Diego for the better.

About the SAVY Leaders: SAVY (Students Actively Volunteering for You) Leaders, a program of VSD, is a group of 35 high school students, from all over San Diego County, who take part in a youth leadership council. They attend comprehensive leadership training, create large-scale service projects, write grants, and learn resume building skills such as project planning, team building, identifying resources, goal setting, and assessing community needs. These Students Actively Volunteer and positively change the community for You – San Diego.

About Global Youth Service Day: GYSD is the largest youth service event in the world. GYSD is a year-round effort to expand the impact of the youth service movement. The initiative launches new service organizations, policy changes, and sustainable service programs to create a culture of engaged youth. State Farm Companies Foundation is the presenting sponsor. More than 125 national partners and 70 lead agencies throughout the United States organize campaigns. Overseas, national lead agencies in more than 100 countries participate. Planning Tool Kits, Service-Learning Curriculum Guides, classroom posters, grants, and more are available for youth, parents, teachers and organizations. For the U.S. Map of Service Projects for GYSD 2008: www.YSA.org/map.

About Youth Service America: Youth Service America seeks to improve communities by increasing the number and diversity of young people, ages 5-25, serving in important roles. Founded in 1986, YSA is an international nonprofit resource center that partners with thousands of organizations in more than 100 countries to expand the impact of the youth service movement with families, communities, schools, corporations, and governments. For more information: www.YSA.org.