



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN FOUNDATION & TEAM KIDS** **SET WORLD RECORD ON GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY**

*Kids of all ages turn out to write 507 letters to the troops in one day*

**WHAT:** Festival of Children Foundation and Team Kids collaborated on “Letters from Home,” an afternoon designed to recognize Global Youth Service Day. Together, the children’s nonprofits set a record for the most cards written to the troops in one afternoon. Kids of all ages were invited to South Coast Plaza’s Carousel Court where they were given art supplies and paper to create their letters. 507 letters were written in a four hour window of time.

“I know first hand how incredible it is to receive mail from when I was deployed in Iraq,” said Team Kids Program Director Jamie “Doc” Havig. “Nothing raises the spirits of our troops like a hand written letter from a child!”

“This project mobilized children from California to Virginia to send much deserved messages of appreciation to our troops serving abroad,” said Team Kids Founder and CEO Julie Hudash. “Our collaboration with Team Kids resulted in a record setting afternoon that benefits our troops. That’s very exciting!” added Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, Founder and Executive Director of Festival of Children Foundation.

Costa Mesa Mayor Pro Tem Steve Mensinger was on hand to observe the kids in action and to honor the Team Kids Youth Council with a President’s Volunteer Service Award for giving over 1000 hours of volunteer service in their communities.

**WHEN:** **Saturday, April 27 from Noon – 4pm**

**WHERE:** Carousel Court at South Coast Plaza  
3333 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

(more)

**About Global Youth Service Day**

Global Youth Service Day celebrates and mobilizes the millions of young people who improve their communities each day of the year through service. Established in 1988, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is the largest service event in the world, and the only day of service dedicated to children and youth. GYSD is celebrated each year in over 100 countries, with young people working together- and with schools, youth organizations, nonprofits, community and faith-based organizations, national service programs, government agencies and adult mentors – to address the world’s most critical issues and change their communities. Global Youth Service Day is a campaign of YSA (Youth Service America), an international leader in the youth service movement. For more information, visit [www.gysd.org](http://www.gysd.org).

**About President’s Volunteer Service Award**

The President’s Volunteer Service Award program was established to honor volunteers that give hundreds of hours per year helping others. These volunteers can be individuals, families and organization located throughout the United States. The program, created by President George W. Bush in 2002, recognizes the important contributions Americans of all ages are making within their communities through service and civic engagement. The President’s Volunteer Service Award is now an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Points of Light Institute.

**About Team Kids**

Team Kids’ mission is to empower youth to be responsible, resilient, socially conscious citizens through experiential leadership and character development programs that leverage innovative community collaboration. It’s all about the kids! For more information, visit [www.teamkids.org](http://www.teamkids.org).

**About Festival of Children Foundation**

Festival of Children Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that serves to bring together and coordinate the efforts of charities, companies and individuals who actively work to improve the lives of children. Festival of Children Foundation gives a voice, guidance and support. 100% of the administrative costs are covered by designated funding, allowing donations to go further in direct support of programs and services that improve the lives of children. For more information, visit [www.festivalofchildren.org](http://www.festivalofchildren.org).

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