

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Youth Leadership Conference Brings Middle and High School Student Leaders Together

"A leader is not something you are born to be, you become a leader when you take the initiative to make a difference." Hazel Maristela, Preuss, grade 10.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 28th

TIME: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

WHERE: University of San Diego's
Joan B. Kroc Peace & Justice Center

What: Youth Leadership Conference

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San Diego, CA – February 27, 2006 - On **Tuesday, February 28, 2006**, Volunteer San Diego and the SAVY Leaders (Students Actively Volunteering for You) are holding their annual Youth Leadership Conference at the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. Over 150 middle and high school students will be attending **representing 36 different schools in San Diego County**. More than 80 of the students are from San Diego Unified School District.

Starting at 8:30, students arrive and interact with 12 different agencies during the Agency Fair. The Agency Fair is designed to give students access to resources from: BBB of San Diego, AmeriCorps, Peacecorps, USD college of Community Service-Learning, local and International volunteer opportunities, Make A Wish Foundation, Kids Korps, Big Sister League of San Diego, and VITAS Innovative Hospice Care.

Promptly at 9:05, the SAVY Leaders will Emcee the conference opening. **Sue Carter, Volunteer San Diego's Executive Director**, will begin with a welcome followed by **Keynote Speaker, Kristen Paruginog, Miss San Diego's Outstanding Teen 2006**.

The day is filled with a wide variety of conference sessions, providing each student attendee with a multitude of service-learning experiences. Students can attend a total of seven conference sessions during the day, choosing from almost two dozen opportunities. Volunteer presenters will conduct interactive service-learning workshops that build skills such as Interviewing, Advocacy, Communication, Project Planning, Fundraising, Public Relations, Youth Voice, and Skill Identification.



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Volunteer presenters include representatives from Volunteer San Diego, Kids Korps USA, Ocean Revolution, Seeds for Change Humane Education, Community Resource Center as well as area consultants.

Please join us in supporting San Diego's next generation of community leaders. For more information about the day's events or Youth Programs visit:

www.volunteersandiego.org.

About Service-Learning

Volunteer San Diego employs two Service-Learning Certified Trainers designated as Regional Lead trainers by the California Department of Education. Service-Learning: Hands-on learning by actually "doing something" and teaching that achieves academic objectives while meeting an identified community need. It includes time spent in reflection (self and group), and reciprocity.

About SAVY

SAVY, a program of Volunteer San Diego, has been connecting youth to volunteer service in San Diego County since 1984. Annually, SAVY (Students Actively Volunteering for You) engages over 10,000 middle and high school students from diverse neighborhoods in community service, youth leadership and service-learning projects and supports hundreds of other youth service projects through a mini-grants program.

About Volunteer San Diego

Volunteer San Diego is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that helps individuals, families, and corporate and community groups find volunteer opportunities at more than 800 diverse service organizations and schools throughout the county. Our capacity building programs and services allow volunteers to work hand-in-hand with nonprofit agencies to develop strong and vibrant communities.

Volunteer San Diego volunteers, now 36,000 strong, are at work every day of the year, building community and meeting critical needs by teaching children the joy of reading, beautifying our parks and beaches, preparing meals for our homebound neighbors, distributing food to low income families and learning what it means to create positive change. Last year, Volunteer San Diego volunteers contributed over 108,000 hours (or \$2 million in people power) to make our community a better place to live, work and play.



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