



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOCAL STUDENTS JOIN MILLIONS IN CELEBRATING
GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY**
Annual day is largest service event in the world

AUSTIN, TX – Only a few days after President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act into law, ushering in a new era of service in a time of great need, local nonprofit College Forward will celebrate the spirit of service with three community events. The College Forward program is based on a model of service: full-time AmeriCorps volunteers coach low-income students through the college application process. In return for the free services they receive, College Forward students “pay it forward” by planning projects to help their communities.

This Saturday’s projects honor Global Youth Service Day, the largest service event in the world, which millions of youth worldwide participate in each year.

College Forward students have planned the following events:

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AT BATY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

College Forward’s Student Leadership Council at Del Valle High School will help plan and implement the first-ever outdoor classroom at Baty Elementary School. The project will affect over 600 students and staff and will enhance science education at the elementary school. The outdoor classroom project is also intended to improve the Del Valle school district’s community pride as teens organize to improve education for their younger peers. Students will recruit thirty volunteers to help build the classroom, and will work alongside the elementary school teachers and students who will benefit from it. The project will take place on **Saturday, April 25 from 11 am to 2 pm at Baty Elementary, 2108 Faro Dr., Austin.**

“THE SOUTHWOOD PARK THING” NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVAL

College Forward’s Student Leadership Council at Crockett High School will partner with the Southwood Park Neighborhood Association to put on “The Southwood Park Thing,” a neighborhood festival to foster community engagement. The Student Leadership Council will engage other student volunteers and work alongside neighborhood associates. The festival will take place on **Saturday, April 25, from 10 am to 2 pm at Southwood Park, 5120 South 1st St., Austin.**

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"PLANT A TREE FOR ARBOR DAY" AT OLD SETTLERS PARK

College Forward's Student Leadership Council at Stony Point High School will partner with the Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department for "Plant a Tree for Arbor Day." Volunteers will help plant 165 trees at Old Settlers Park. The Student Leadership Council will engage other student volunteers to participate in the event and to become part of the tree celebration. The project will take place on **Saturday, April 25, from 9 am to 12 pm at Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock.**

ABOUT COLLEGE FORWARD: College Forward is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides college preparatory and college retention services to motivated, economically-disadvantaged students in order to facilitate their transition to college and make the process exciting and rewarding. We believe that access to higher education is the right of every young Texan. *www.collegeforward.org*

ABOUT GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY: Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is the largest service event in the world. Millions of youth will participate in the 21st Annual Global Youth Service Day on April 24-26, 2009. Over the past 21 years, Global Youth Service Day has brought together more than 40 million people in thousands of communities worldwide. GYSD is organized by Youth Service America with the National Youth Leadership Council, the Global Youth Action Network, and with thousands of partners in the U.S. and across the world. During Global Youth Service Day, millions of youth around the world organize community service projects to address the needs of their local communities through service, to be recognized for their contributions, and to be a part of a global youth service movement. GYSD is held during a weekend every April in over 100 countries in every region of the world. *www.gysd.org*

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