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The Private Education Development Network awarded a Disney Minnie Grant to lead a Community Service Campaign on Global Youth Service Day

The Private Education Development Network was awarded a Disney Minnie Grant to lead a community service campaign on Global Youth Service Day on April 25-27, 2008, the largest service event in the world. These grants support young people between the ages of five and 14 years old in planning and implementing service projects in their community. Disney Minnie Grant winners were selected by Youth Service America (YSA) and sponsored by Disney.

Spanning three days, April 25, 26 and 27, 2008, GYSD involves millions of young people across the world, with the help of mentors, parents, and teachers. Young volunteers will address important community needs through service and service-learning projects addressing climate change, literacy, poverty, human rights, and many other issues.

The Private Education Development Network (PEDN) is a non-profit organization formed in June 2004 to promote youth empowerment through establishment of entrepreneurship and business skills programs in public/ private secondary schools as well as communities. The objective is to nurture the innovative and creative potential of Ugandan youth by equipping them with entrepreneurial, business skills, and career guidance. In doing so, the Network seeks to produce creative, competitive and productive individuals, who are job creators and not job seekers.

The Private Education Development Network (the Network) has mobilized at least 40 young people in Muzinda village to participate in the 20th Annual Global Youth Service Day, Friday, April 25 through Sunday, April 27, in **Muzinda village, Katereke parish, Nsangi sub-county**. The majority of youth participating in this project are also orphans living under the care of a community women's initiative in the same area. The youth service project intends to raise community awareness on malaria, the biggest killer disease in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria is no stranger to this small village in Muzinda, many inhabitants have fallen victim to the disease, but local-area youth want to fight back. Following a special focus group which identified malaria as their primary cause for concern, the youth in this village have created a club designed to lead educational campaigns to better inform residents of the harmful causes of the disease. For two hours every Saturday and Sunday leading up to Global Youth Service Day the youth have been working with their local municipality officials and trained health workers to teach both younger children and residents at large about preventative measures that can be exercised to keep the deadly disease at bay, as part of their youth service project. This Saturday, April 26th 2008 and during Sunday, April 27th 2008 morning, the same group of youth shall be involved in clean-up exercises around the village in which they shall clear overgrown bushes, drainages, and boreholes on the village; construct one bathroom (using locally available materials) for one needy person on the village and also spray at least 5 households for mosquitoes. All of these activities are intended to make the village safer from malaria cause, and by extension reduce the cases of school absenteeism due to malaria illness.

“**J**ohn Kayonga, one of the youth participating in this service project in Muzinda village is riding his bicycle around the village in the evenings over this week, as he educates residents about the malaria cycle; showing them how malaria is spread and teaching them about the importance of sleeping under an insecticide treated mosquito net. This Sunday, John and at least 40 of his young colleagues shall come together to celebrate the GYSD by highlighting their activities in the service project aimed at curbing malaria incidence, to a congregation of at least 100 people from in and around Muzinda, and request them to follow suit, in what shall be the largest anti-malaria group effort yet in this small village in Nsangi sub-county.”

Please make an effort to join John and his colleagues this Sunday on Global Youth Service Day in Muzinda.

For more information about getting involved with the Global Youth Service - Muzinda, please contact:

GYSD Event contact person

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Global Youth Service Day 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

Disney brightens the lives of children in need around the world through global outreach programs, local community initiatives and the Disney VoluntEARS program. Last year, Disney donated more than \$177 million in cash and in-kind support to various charities around the world and the Company drew upon its unique magic to make wishes come true for children and families. Last year, Disney VoluntEARS contributed more than 466,000 hours of service. The Disney VoluntEARS program provides opportunities for Disney employees to contribute their time and expertise towards making a positive impact in the communities they serve while furthering the traditions and ideals of The Walt Disney Company. This year, The Walt Disney Company is celebrating 25 years of giving back to communities around the world through the efforts of Disney voluntEARS. Since the program's inception, Disney Employees and Cast Members in over 42 countries have donated over 5,000,000 hours of service.

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