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Public Allies Funds Alumni Engagement Projects in Chicago, Delaware, and Washington, D.C.

Milwaukee, Wis. (Nov. 8, 2010) – The Public Allies National Office has announced \$30,000 in funding to support pilot alumni outreach efforts at three of its 21 sites. The grants were awarded after sites were invited to submit proposals for ways to mobilize and engage Public Allies alumni in their local communities. The intent of the grants is to create prototype programs that can ultimately be replicated at other National Allies sites.

After a competitive and intensive review process, the following projects were selected:

Public Allies Chicago will receive \$9,500 to support an emerging alumni association as it organizes initiatives for measurable impact in two priority areas: youth development and economic development. Among the highlights of Chicago’s pilot program: A pool of money will be available for teams of alumni to implement projects in the two priority areas. Chicago has developed the leadership potential of more than 400 young adults since 1994.

Public Allies Delaware will receive \$10,500 to support its alumni council in overseeing initiatives for alumni throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Among the highlights of Delaware’s pilot program: A conference to convene as many as 120 alumni living in Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D.C., New York and Pittsburgh. Conference activities being discussed include training sessions; networking opportunities on issues of interest such as education; and visits to local legislators. More than 300 emerging leaders have completed the Public Allies Delaware program since 1995.

Public Allies Washington, D.C., will receive \$10,000 for a wide-ranging plan that will combine professional development opportunities with community engagement. One of many highlights from the D.C. pilot project: Alumni will have the opportunity to present innovative solutions to community problems to prominent social entrepreneurs and innovators. More than 300 Public Allies alumni live in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

“The response to our call for proposals was outstanding, and the choices were difficult,” said Cris Ros-Dukler, Chief Operating Officer. “These pilot programs will help set the stage and set the standards for more and better alumni outreach at Public Allies.”

Nationwide, the Public Allies alumni network is more than 3,100 strong. “That’s a number we want to leverage not only to advance our mission but to contribute to healthier communities everywhere,” said Ros-Dukler. She stressed important common denominators among the initiatives in Chicago, Delaware, and Washington, D.C.:

- They will benefit alumni individually (through skill-building and networking opportunities) while also benefitting the community (through volunteerism and idea-sharing opportunities).
- They will build each site’s capacity to generate alumni support to advance the Public Allies mission, whether through advisory board service, volunteerism, or financial contributions.
- They will cultivate a culture of “always an Ally” – that is, an ongoing commitment to put the Public Allies values to work to strengthen communities.

“All 21 of our sites should be recognized for their ongoing commitment to alumni engagement,” said Ros-Dukler. “Even those sites who have launched their first-ever Ally classes understand that outreach to alumni begins on the first day a new emerging leader joins our program.”

Public Allies, a national nonprofit based in Milwaukee, is an AmeriCorps program. Currently, 646 Allies are at work in 21 cities, where each is placed at a local nonprofit organization for a 10-month apprenticeship. During their 10 months as Allies, they also embark on a rigorous schedule of leadership training and team service projects. Allies, who are accepted into the program after a competitive application process, come from all walks of life, are typically 18 to 30, and are committed to continuing their nonprofit and public sector work.

About Public Allies

Public Allies’ mission is to advance new leadership to strengthen communities, nonprofits, and civic participation. We are motivated by our conviction that everyone can lead, and that lasting social change results when citizens of all backgrounds step up, take responsibility, and work together. For information about our Allies Program, alumni activities, training programs, and Turning the Tide fellowships, please visit www.publicallies.org or contact our National Office.

Public Allies communities: Phoenix, Ariz.; Chicago; Cincinnati; Connecticut; Delaware; Estes Park, Colo.; Indianapolis; Los Angeles; Maryland; Miami; Milwaukee, Wis.; New Mexico; New York; Minneapolis/St. Paul; Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; Orlando; Pittsburgh; San Antonio; San Francisco; Silicon Valley; Washington, D.C.

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