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For more information please contact:

Diane M. Bacha, Director of Marketing and Communications

414.273.0533 x22, diane@publicallies.org

www.publicallies.org

Public Allies Expands to Three More Cities

With Minneapolis-St. Paul, Orlando, and Washington, D.C.,
Allies are now in 21 communities nationwide

Milwaukee, WI (June 16, 2010) – Young leaders with a passion to make a difference will be placed in paid apprenticeships at nonprofit organizations in three new cities, thanks to funding recently announced by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Corporation, which oversees federal funding of service and volunteer programs, has made it possible for Public Allies to add programs in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Orlando, Fla., and Washington, D.C.

This increases the total number of Public Allies communities to 21 from 18 nationwide, and the total number of apprentices, or Allies, from 410 to 656.

“We’re thrilled to bring our leadership model to these three cities,” said Public Allies CEO Paul Schmitz. “And it comes at a time when interest in community service is high. Already, we have received a record amount of applications for Ally placements, with more than five applicants per slot in the 2010-11 program year, and we are still recruiting in many cities.”

Public Allies, a national nonprofit based in Milwaukee, Wis., mentors young adults with the ambition to make positive changes in their communities. Through a 10-month paid apprenticeship, team projects, and training, they are given the opportunity to have an impact in the areas of poverty, public health, at-risk youth, housing, education, the arts, and many others. The program prepares Allies for a career in nonprofit and public-sector work. A recently completed survey of Public

Allies alumni revealed that 76% remain in those sectors, and 67% remain in the communities where they did their original Ally work.

Allies typically range in age from 18 to 30 and are recruited from diverse backgrounds. Most work in communities where they already have connections, and where their commitment to change is long-term.

Applications are being accepted from young adults interested in participating in the three new programs. Public Allies is also seeking nonprofit organizations in those cities that are interested in hosting Allies. The programs will launch in September.

Schmitz pointed out that in Washington, D.C., Public Allies is returning to its roots. “It’s the birthplace of Public Allies,” Schmitz said. “We graduated our first class of Allies in that city in 1993.” The site was closed in 2004; this re-launch fulfills Public Allies’ goal of returning to the nation’s capital. Nakeisha Neal, an Alumna of the Washington, D.C., Public Allies Class of 1997, has been named executive director of the re-launched site.

In Minneapolis-St. Paul and Orlando, Public Allies is affiliating with partners to operate the program:

- **Pillsbury United Communities**, a community-based nonprofit organization with multiple locations in Minneapolis' inner city neighborhoods, including four neighborhood centers and a professional live theatre. Pillsbury United Communities serves more than 35,000 people each year.
- **Family Services of Metro Orlando**, a private, nonprofit organization that creates and manages partnerships with other service organizations in order to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families in the metro Orlando area. Those community partners provide resources to help children and families facing hardships such as homelessness or unstable housing, domestic violence, addiction or dependency, job loss or physical and/or mental health issues.

The three newest Ally communities will host a total of 80 Allies.

Public Allies was founded in 1992 by a diverse group of young nonprofit leaders who believed that there were many energetic, talented young people who wanted to tackle community and national issues, but who needed support in learning how. It has been recognized by the Bush and Clinton administrations as a model for national service.

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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. Public Allies is an AmeriCorps-sponsored nonprofit program based in Milwaukee, Wis., and supporting 18 sites across the country. Since its inception in 1992, it has graduated about 2,800 Allies from community-based programs designed to expand the capacity of local nonprofits and teach young adults leadership skills. 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.

Ally Communities

Current: Arizona, Chicago, Cincinnati, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Maryland, Miami, Milwaukee, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pittsburgh, San Antonio, San Francisco, Silicon Valley. Launching in fall 2010: Minneapolis-St. Paul; Orlando, Fla.; Washington, D.C.

Contact information

Public Allies National Office
611 North Broadway Suite 415
Milwaukee WI 53202
414.273.0533
www.publicallies.org

