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**Presidential Volunteer Service Awards Presented to
more than 1,200 Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Ambassadors**

(LOS ANGELES – November 7, 2011) — More than 1,200 [Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership](#) ambassadors from around the country are among this year’s recipients of the prestigious Presidential Volunteer Service Awards. HOBY is the nation’s top not-for-profit youth leadership development organization.

The [Presidential Volunteer Service Awards](#) are presented annually to high school students who, over the prior 12 months, have each dedicated at least 100 hours to community service. Administered by the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network, it was created as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

With volunteerism and service inherent in its mission, HOBY is an active participant in the program and encourages each student who attends a local HOBY Leadership Seminar to complete at least 100 hours of community service within one year.

“Each year we challenge our alumni to put their leadership skills into action through service in which they donate their time and energy to help make their communities a better place to live,” says HOBY President and CEO Javier LaFianza. “Every community needs young volunteers to pitch in and help out. Recognizing their contribution through Presidential Volunteer Service Awards is a way to say thank you for their efforts and helps raise the public’s awareness of young people as a resource for community problem solving.”

To help these HOBY ambassadors successfully meet that challenge, HOBY provides an innovative website (www.hoby.org) that is used to reach out to, communicate with, motivate and certify service hours. HOBY volunteers and alumni also organize hundreds of service projects across the country every year. Students who achieve their goal receive not only recognition from

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HOBYP but are honored with the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, which includes congratulatory letters from the President of the United States and the chair and honorary co-chairs of the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Since its inception, HOBY alumni have logged more than two million hours of service through approximately 10,000 unique service projects. “Leadership requires action, and participation in service prepares young people for meaningful roles in their community throughout their lifetime,” says LaFianza. “The Presidential Volunteer Service Award recognizes this, and we hope that through such recognition we can inspire others to make service a central part of their lives too.”

For more than 50 years, Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership has helped to cultivate tomorrow’s leaders by inspiring a global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. HOBY programs annually provide nearly 10,000 local and international high school students the opportunity to participate in unique leadership training, service learning and motivation-building experiences. HOBY also provides adults the opportunity to make a significant impact on the lives of youth by volunteering, and today more than 4,000 volunteers and over 365,000 alumni proudly make up the HOBY family. Further information on HOBY may be obtained at www.hoby.org.

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