



Contacts:

James Martinez

Office: (312) 670-6782 Ext. 325

Cell: (773) 339-4533

La'Keisha Gray-Sewell

Office: (312) 670-6782 Ext. 321

Cell: (312) 623-4560

National PTA Shares Wondrous Holiday Spirit

Honors journalists for covering key issues

Shares tips on giving back through family volunteerism

Chicago (December 17, 2009)—In the spirit of giving this holiday season National PTA's Media Relations Team is giving back by honoring journalists who call attention to child and education issues year-round through the special holiday message below. The holidays are also a good way for PTA members to continue helping their communities and schools everywhere. Following the video message are National PTA's "Top 10 Holiday Volunteers Ideas."

PLACE HOLDER FOR VIDEO LINK.

"The relationship and affinity between media relations professionals and journalists are often overlooked and easily forgotten. Our Media Relations Team couldn't think of a better time to thank our colleagues in the media and highlight their work," said James Martinez, National PTA Media Relations Manager. "We pride ourselves on sharing useful information with reporters, editors and producers. We look forward to another great year of working together to call attention to issues that matter to families and the American public."

National PTA wants to see all families use this holiday time to not only spend time with each other, but to also engage in volunteer service. Families can use the holiday volunteer recommendations as a guide to give back during this season.

"Volunteerism is at the heart of what makes our society whole. By volunteering as a family, parents model giving back and provide an example for their children to follow on their way to becoming productive adults who make great contributions to the world," said Charles "Chuck" J. Saylor, National PTA President.

National PTA Top Ten Holiday Volunteer Ideas

10. Dog is man's best friend, but let's face it, even Santa could use a little help with his reindeer. A great way to give back to our furry friends this season is to lend a helping hand at your local animal shelter.
9. To make this season less frightful for those who have jack frost nipping at their nose, donate scarves, hats, gloves and coats to bring warmth to those in need this season. You

can also get inventive by getting your kids involved by sewing or knitting hats for the homeless this season.

8. In case you were worried about finding coal in your stocking this year, (which we hope you won't) you can make someone's day a little brighter by creating a stocking filled with care kit supplies like socks and hygiene products.
7. Volunteer by making sure everyone has a meal this season by preparing lunches, volunteering at a local soup kitchen, donating non perishable food to your local food pantry.
6. Bring tidings of comfort and joy to a local children's hospital to make the season brighter for a child in need.
5. Go caroling around a senior home to bring the holiday spirit to the elderly.
4. Not everyone can be a toy maker, but everyone has special talents to share. Children can create arts and crafts and auction them at a school holiday fair with all proceeds going toward a charitable organization
3. Who doesn't love walking in a winter wonderland? Save this season's beautiful sights by helping keep your neighborhoods clean and donating your time to an elderly person to help shovel their snow.
2. "Let it snow!" is what the children scream and shout during recess! Make this winter unforgettable for a disadvantaged child by taking them along on a fun-filled and educational excursion such as taking them to the aquarium or the museum.
1. There's no place like home for the holidays, and what better way to give back by welcoming those in need by adopting a family this holiday season.

View www.ptanewsroom.org for more information.

About National PTA

National PTA comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.