

November 21, 2011

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Local Youth Program Seeks A Gift 50 Volunteers For Christmas**

November, 2011, OMAHA, Neb. — The Partnership For Our Kids needs to recruit 50 volunteers in 25 days to guarantee each of the 5,000 Omaha Public Schools students served by the organization has a group mentor or a goal buddy by Christmas. “Our students are living in a poor economic climate that has been hit even harder in recent years, putting students’ futures at risk unless we get the volunteers needed to serve as positive role models,” said Partnership For Our Kids Recruitment Marketing Specialist, Phil Jarrett. “What makes The Partnership For Our Kids programs so special is the targeted focus on improving student performance through personal interaction with our volunteers.” Last year 93 percent of the organization’s elementary school participants met their academic goals and 83 percent of the Partnership’s graduating class is now enrolled in college or trade school, which Jarrett said is proof that the efforts made by Partnership volunteers are making a difference.

The two major volunteer opportunities offered by the Partnership include working with elementary school students as a goal buddy, or serving as a group mentor for students in middle and high school. Goal buddies, visit elementary classrooms twice a quarter, providing students with extra support and encouraging them to achieve academic and life skill goals. Volunteers choosing to become group mentors meet with seventh through twelfth grade students, after school in a classroom, which is facilitated by a trained program staff member. Volunteer time commitments range from 2-4 hours a month and all volunteers are asked to participate in the program for a minimum of one year. “Free time might be an expense many cannot afford these days, but what little we have should be invested wisely. We encourage any potential volunteer to come see what our program does and how bright our student’s futures can be with their help,” said Jarrett. Community members who would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer for The Partnership For Our Kids should call 402-557-3095 or visit, [www.thepartnershipforourkids.org](http://www.thepartnershipforourkids.org).

*The Partnership For Our Kids is a non-profit organization working towards advancing the education of today’s youth and preparing them for tomorrow’s careers. Partnership staff and volunteers empower kids to succeed by introducing them to caring adult role-models, teaching them how to set and achieve their goals, inspiring them to explore a wide variety of career paths and giving them the keys to college access. Currently there are 5,000 students in 21 Omaha Public Schools participating in Partnership programs.*

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For more information on The Partnership For Our Kids or to schedule an interview, call 402-930-3002, or visit [www.thepartnershipforourkids.org](http://www.thepartnershipforourkids.org)