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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, November 2, 2011

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MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSON ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF *CITY YEAR* IN SACRAMENTO SCHOOLS

Corps members serve as tutors, mentors and role models in the classroom with students, teachers

SACRAMENTO, CA – Today Mayor Kevin Johnson was joined by Superintendent Jonathan Raymond, California Secretary of Service and Volunteering Karen Baker, members of the City Year Sacramento Founding Committee, and several City Year corps members in their signature red jackets at Oak Ridge Elementary School to announce plans to partner with City Year, ultimately launching the program in Sacramento schools next fall.

City Year, a national organization that unites young people for a year of service in high-need urban schools, recently approved the formation of a local start-up team in Sacramento after two years of working with the Mayor's office, school district partners, and the local business community. This team will focus on securing the remaining support and resources needed to formally launch City Year's newest site in Sacramento next fall. Corps members currently serve as tutors, mentors, and role models in 187 U.S. public schools this year, as well as in two international affiliates in London and Johannesburg. Sacramento would be City Year's 22nd U.S. city.

"It is our obligation to give every child in Sacramento schools every possible opportunity we can offer them to succeed," said Mayor Johnson. "I'm so proud that City Year is now a part of our strategy to make that happen. Over the next year, we'll work closely with City Year to plan with school leaders, recruit local corps members, hire local support staff, and raise the appropriate funds to support a launch in five Sacramento schools next fall."

"City Year belongs in Sacramento schools," said Jonathan Raymond, Superintendent of Sacramento City Unified School District. "The whole school, whole child intervention model that City Year corps members provide aligns perfectly with our work to meet the needs of students in our neediest communities."

In 21 communities across the United States and through two international affiliates in London and Johannesburg, these diverse young leaders help turn around high-need schools and keep students in school and on track to graduation by working to improve their attendance, behavior and course performance.

In 2010, 90% of 3rd through 5th grade students tutored by City Year improved raw literacy scores. As a result of City Year's attendance support initiatives, 55% of 6th through 9th grade students who were off track in attendance were back on track in 2010. And 90 percent of ninth graders working with corps members agreed that City Year helped them understand the class content better.

“We are proud to welcome Sacramento to the City Year family, and we’re inspired by the Sacramento community’s leadership, led by Mayor Johnson, over the last two years to make this start-up team a possibility,” said City Year Co-Founder and national CEO, Michael Brown. “We look forward to working with our partners in Sacramento to lay the groundwork for a strong launch in Sacramento schools, and to tap the energy and idealism of young adults who are ready to give a year of fulltime service to help Sacramento students and schools succeed.”

In 2009, with U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Brown announced *In School & On Track: A National Challenge*, a campaign to address the nation's high school dropout crisis and turn around low performing schools by scaling City Year programs nationwide.

High school dropouts are three times more likely than college graduates to be unemployed and eight times more likely to be incarcerated than high school graduates. Today’s event took place at Oak Ridge Elementary School, which is on the California Department of Education’s list of the state’s persistently lowest achieving. Of the 458 students enrolled, 100% of the students are qualified for free or reduced priced meals. Learn more at cityyear.org.

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About City Year

City Year is an education-focused, nonprofit organization founded in 1988 that partners with public schools to provide full-time targeted intervention for students most at risk of dropping out. In more than 20 communities across the United States and through two international affiliates, our teams of young AmeriCorps leaders support students by focusing on attendance, behavior, and course performance through in-class tutoring, mentoring, and after school programs that keep kids in school and on track to graduate.