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Subject: Advisory--SCDJJ to conclude Young Craftsmen's "Building Blitz"

Attachments: Media Advisory for SCDJJ Young Craftsmen Anniversary.PDF

Media Advisory
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, August 14, 2013
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Department of Juvenile Justice celebrates 10 years of building adirondack chairs

Faith-based volunteers support building blitz

WHAT: On Friday, August 16, 2013, the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Young Craftsmen's Club volunteers in partnership with the South Carolina Baptist Campers on Mission, and the South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union, will conclude a week-long building blitz of adirondack chairs, with a ceremony at 12 p.m., at the construction site.

The mission project, "Chairs4Charity" building blitz commemorates the 10th anniversary of volunteers working with young people at DJJ in building Adirondack chairs, footstools, and tea tables, in DJJ's after school Young Craftsmen's Program. For this current building blitz, high school youth under DJJ's supervision in the community, college students, and faith-based volunteers are working side by side. The volunteers represent churches and organizations from around South Carolina.

The building of adirondack chairs has been a mainstay of DJJ's efforts to engage its youth in developing carpentry skills for future job opportunities. In addition to adirondack chairs, the Young Craftsmen's Club has added footstools and tea tables to their collection. All items are sold in DJJ's Store of Hope.

Campers on Mission volunteers set up a camp ground on Shivers Road and are expected to build as many as 20 chairs. As part of Friday's ceremony, chairs will be donated to three non-profit organizations that were selected by youth who helped to build the chairs.

WHEN: Friday, August 16, 2013, 12 p.m.

WHERE: Former Gateway Girls School, 1881 Shivers Road, Columbia, SC 29210

Speakers: Margaret Barber, DJJ director; Steve Slater and Dave Morrison, Young Craftsmen's volunteers; Reverend Joseph Hamilton, pastor, New St. Thomas Reformed Episcopal Church; Rick Wessinger, DJJ Chester County Office director, and community youths.

About DJJ

--- As the state agency responsible for providing rehabilitation and custodial care for the state's juveniles who are on probation, incarcerated, or on parole for a criminal or status offense, DJJ actively seeks partnerships that foster its mission. DJJ's mission is to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.

About South Carolina Campers on Mission

Members of South Carolina Campers on Mission (SCCOM) seek ways to strengthen their Christian witness and ministry as they camp. SCCOM rallies offer Christian fellowship and sharing, and a chance to learn about ministry opportunities. SCCOM members accept short term mission assignments lasting anywhere from a few days to several months all across the United States and Canada. At times, members even do international projects. These projects may include construction work, evangelism, helping with Seafarers Missions, assisting churches in ministering to impoverished areas, assisting with backyard Bible clubs, or just ministering to fellow campers.

About South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union

South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union (SC WMU) is a missions organization that has educated and involved generations

upon generations in Christian missions. Our purpose—to challenge Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God—is accomplished through our age-level mission's organizations, and hands-on missions opportunities. SC WMU is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Columbia, SC, that offers a vast array of missions for age-level organizations in churches, volunteer opportunities, conferences, leadership training, and ministry ideas.

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