

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hundreds of Youth, Volunteers, and DJJ Staff Will Perform Community Service Projects in all South Carolina Counties Throughout the Month of September

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) staff along with youth, community partners, and volunteers will for the sixth consecutive year mark its "Restoring Carolina through Youth Service" initiative, with community projects being performed throughout the month of September in counties all over the state, including the secure facilities on Broad River Road. Hundreds of ordinary citizens statewide are expected to turn out to complete service projects side-by-side with youth, community partners, and volunteers, both in South Carolina communities and the DJJ's secure facilities, to paint and refurbish community buildings, replenish and organize public clothing and food pantries, spruce up gardens, and much more.

In 2013, these service days combined the efforts of 1,369 participants including 650 DJJ staff, volunteers, community partners, and 719 juveniles who conducted 89 service projects in all 46 counties along with DJJ's Community Alternatives, Residential Services, Detention and Evaluation Centers, and the Broad River Road Complex. This year's service event will be expanded from three days to a full month and promises to be bigger than ever!

As part of the activities, DJJ's JROTC will hold an observance of "We Will Never Forget – America's Promise," a 9/11 Remembrance and Wreath Ceremony at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 6. The observance will include a moment of silence at 12 p.m. that will be observed by all DJJ staff and volunteers at community project sites around the state.

"I can't begin to express the importance of Restoring Carolina through Youth Service as one of DJJ's initiatives where the focus is youth giving back through community service," said DJJ Director Margaret H. Barber. "We are inspired year after year by the number of youth eager to join volunteers and DJJ staff in helping others through projects that target

the everyday lives of children and families in communities throughout South Carolina. Restoring Carolina is a strong example of DJJ's Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) philosophy. It is a lesson in history for our students, as well."

A complete listing of this years' service projects, including dates, times, and locations is available at www.state.sc.us/djj/restoring.pdf.

Background

--- "Restoring Carolina through Youth Service" was established 6 years ago at DJJ to coincide with the National Day of Service, which is observed annually on September 11th. Through service projects, DJJ is inspiring hope among children and families while helping our communities become safer places to work, live and play.

"Restoring Carolina through Youth Service" engages hundreds of youth, volunteers, and staff in service projects in every county in South Carolina. This year, the initiative will feature events and activities during the entire month of September. A primary focus of the initiative is to provide volunteer opportunities for young people who have made poor choices to give back through community service. This is also a time when staff and youth work side-by-side in efforts that bring meaning and fulfillment to so many.

DJJ's has numerous community partners for "Restoring Carolina Through Youth Service," including Arbitration Programs, law enforcement, state agencies, community groups, churches, schools, non-profit organizations (including the Friends of Juvenile Justice, and many others). Organizations and individuals interested in partnering in this event should contact their local DJJ County Office.

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.

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