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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2010 GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY PROJECT REGISTRATION IN VERMONT OPENS AND MINI-GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE

[Middlebury, VT] – (February 2, 2010) – Vermont youth may now register their service projects for Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) through www.gysdvermont.org. GYSD is an annual campaign that celebrates and mobilizes the millions of children and youth who improve their communities each day of the year through service and service-learning. Registered GYSD projects will engage youth (ages 5-25) in direct-service, philanthropy, and/or advocacy Friday, April 23 through Sunday, April 25, 2010. Any such project, whether it is an on-going service experience or being planned in conjunction with something else—such as Earth Day—may also be affiliated with Global Youth Service Day.

In Vermont, GYSD is coordinated by Vermont Campus Compact (VCC). VCC has served as a Lead Agency for Global Youth Service Day since 2008. “Our goal this year is to increase the number of youth-led service projects in Vermont to over 40,” said Amy Gibans McGlashan, Executive Director of Vermont Campus Compact. “We’re also exceptionally pleased to be able to offer mini-grants again this year, thanks to the generosity of the TD Charitable Foundation.”

TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®, through the TD Charitable Foundation, recently awarded \$7,500 to VCC to further support GYSD projects that involve college students and younger children working together to address a community need. Projects that either utilize disadvantaged youth as volunteers and/or benefit disadvantaged youth are encouraged to apply. Although most mini-grants are anticipated to be within the \$300-\$500 range, applicants may ask for up to \$1,000. The mini-grant applications are now available at www.gysdvermont.org. Applications will be accessible until all the available funds have been distributed.

GYSD is coordinated by Youth Service America. State Farm Companies Foundation is the U.S. Presenting Sponsor. For more information about local events or to get involved, please contact Kathy Sims at 802-443-5652 or visit www.gysdvermont.org. To learn more about the GYSD projects occurring around the world or to find project planning resources, visit www.GYSD.org.

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The TD Charitable Foundation is the charitable giving arm of TD Bank N.A., which operates as TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®, and is one of the 15 largest commercial banking organizations in the United States. The Foundation's mission is to serve the individuals, families and businesses in all the communities where TD Bank operates, having made over \$53 million in charitable donations since its inception in 2002. The efforts of the Foundation are coordinated locally through TD Bank's community relations departments and are focused on the areas of affordable housing, education and financial literacy, and the environment. More information on the TD Charitable Foundation, including an online grant application, is available at www.TDBank.com.

Vermont Campus Compact (VCC) is a statewide consortium of 17 college and university presidents committed to creating a flourishing democracy. We work with members to strengthen communities and educate for informed and active citizenship. VCC presidents believe that through sustained and creative student, faculty and institutional engagement with communities, higher education can help prepare tomorrow's civic and social leaders while strengthening communities and improving lives in Vermont and elsewhere. For more information, visit www.vtcampuscompact.org.

Youth Service America (YSA) improves communities by increasing the number and the diversity of young people, ages 5-25, serving in substantive roles. Founded in 1986, YSA supports a global culture of engaged youth committed to a lifetime of service, learning leadership, and achievement. The impact of YSA's work through service and service-learning is measured in student achievement, workplace readiness, and healthy communities. For more information, visit www.YSA.org.

The State Farm Companies Foundation is a tax-exempt private foundation that was established in 1963 and is funded by State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. State Farm Companies Foundation provides charitable support for K-12 public education initiatives that are national in scope in the areas of systemic improvement, service-learning, and teacher excellence. For more information about State Farm Companies Foundation, please visit www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/part_spos.asp.