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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Kids Korps USA to Join Forces with Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito To Develop the Next Generation of Volunteers**

Solana Beach, Calif. (August 20, 2014) – Boards of Directors for both Kids Korps USA and Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito have approved to merge and develop a leading youth volunteer organization. Earlier this year, the Board of Directors for Kids Korps USA made a decision to investigate strategic alternatives whereby the organization would have its programmatic components operated under another youth development organization in San Diego County with greater programs and services. Through this merger, the Kids Korps USA mission, members and services will be better leveraged and achieve economies of scale under the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito infrastructure.

“The creation of a vibrant and leading volunteer organization is an important initiative in our strategic plan”, stated David H. Crean, President & CEO for Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito. “There is a continuing need to connect youth to volunteerism and ensure that the value of giving back and philanthropy is part of the next generation’s lifelong commitment to service. Volunteering has a substantial socio-economic and psychology impact on others, especially on those most in need. We are committed to continuing the legacy of Kids Korps USA, strengthening our mission, and offering youth and their families’ valuable opportunities in making a difference in the lives of others.”

When youth volunteer, the larger community benefits. Volunteerism promotes positive citizenship among youth by encouraging them to be more engaged in their own communities. Youth who volunteer feel more connected to their community, are more likely to show concern, and to stay in or return to their communities. Thus, youth volunteerism contributes substantially to community vitality. Lastly, studies suggest that youth volunteerism contributes to identity development, enhancement of skills (including increasing job marketability), increased self-esteem, development of empathy for others, and other improvements related to positive youth development.

"We are very excited to be combining forces with the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Dieguito; Their mission to *inspire and enable youth to achieve academic success, build good character and responsible citizenship and make healthy lifestyle choices* is very much aligned with Kids Korps", stated Kevin Harris, Board Chairman of Kids Korps USA. “Our members will now have access to our youth volunteerism projects and a broad range of extensive community-focused programs offered by the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito. We look forward to working together through this transition and coming together to help strengthen the fabric of the San Diego Community through our youth.”

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Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito offers numerous specialized programs for youth and has become more than just a traditional Boys & Girls Clubs. Kids Korps will be among some of our unique programs offered at the Club to include: Center for a Healthy Lifestyle, helping mitigate childhood obesity by providing gardening, healthy cooking, and nutrition classes; Youth Arts Academy, offering music classes, rock band classes, private lessons, dance classes, and a theater and dramatic arts program for ages 5-18; Big 8 Middle School Sports, which in 2003, BGC San Dieguito worked with the San Dieguito Union High School District to acquire all middle school athletic programs previously being offered by the district; and the Carmel Valley Montessori School, providing a nurturing, child-centered environment where individual needs are met at each stage of development.

The process and timeline for the integration will likely take up to three months as details and full assumptions of the Kids Korps programs are actively being worked on to best serve its members and their needs. More detailed communication on re-launch of the Kids Korps volunteer program will be made as decisions are made.

### **About Kids Korps USA**

Kids Korps USA, founded in 1995 under the leadership of co-founder Joani Wafer, is a leading national non-profit youth volunteer organization that engages young people in community service. Their mission is to instill in today's youth the spirit of giving while providing valuable education in leadership and civic responsibility. They have developed more than 22,000 volunteer service members who have donated well over 500,000 volunteer hours since its inception. More than 325 community-based organizations have partnered with Kids Korps for their youth and adult volunteers in order to meet their program and service needs. Kids Korps has also partnered and operated more than 60 chapters with school and other community-based organizations across San Diego County.

For more information Kids Korps, please visit [www.kidskorps.org](http://www.kidskorps.org).

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito, founded in 1966, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing positive activities to develop the education, health, self-esteem and character of youth. Today, the organization is one of the most successful Clubs in the country serving more than 20,000 youth in the San Dieguito community to include Carmel Valley, Del Mar, Encinitas, Solana Beach and Eden Gardens. Our various branches offer exceptional programs for youth to include:

- Personal development through Core Program Areas
- Clean facilities with dedicated, caring staff members who provide a safe environment for youth
- Quality after-school programs and activities at affordable prices
- Diverse summer camps to fit the needs of all campers
- Innovative specialty programs in academics, music and arts, athletics, volunteering and healthy living

For more information on Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito, please visit us at [www.BGCSanDieguito.org](http://www.BGCSanDieguito.org)

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