



(For Immediate Release)

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Spark the Wave Announces an End to Summer Boredom While Youth Change the World Through Community Service.

(Philadelphia) – STW’s camps to focus on training teens from the National Military Family Association and community organizations for service leadership during a week of community service and fun. Building on the success of its after-school and weekend seminars designed to empower teens to be great volunteers, *Spark the Wave* will be holding two camps (**Operation Purple** and **Wave Week**) for 7-11th graders between July 17-22nd at Villanova University.

Through their collaboration with the National Military Family Association, STW is able to expand its reach to military teens. *Operation Purple* seeks to impart the message that “Kids Serve Too!” empowering them to become young heroes.

While working on the service and leadership skills that STW excels at, participants learn coping methods, develop meaningful relationships with other teens in their situation and experience life lessons at an early age.

“We know parents are anxious to find safe and affordable summer activities for their children,” said *Spark the Wave* President & Founder Dr. William Gallagher. “As for young people, they want to have fun. But they also want to find meaningful ways to spend their time that can positively impact their communities.”

During “*Wave Week & Operation Purple*” STW partners with youth-serving organizations and parents from the community. Through these ‘Focus on Philly’ service projects STW will impact the lives of more than 20,000 Philadelphians. “Teens will be led through a series of activities to enhance their project planning, team management and leadership skills. The activities culminate in a series of community service project planned by the teens, and later implemented in their respective communities or our partner neighborhood of West Philadelphia. Participants in the camp can be credited with 40 hours of community service.

“Teens are naturally idealistic,” Gallagher said. “They want to have a positive impact on the world but they often lack the network or resources to see their vision through. Our camps impart practical skills for teens to establish an initiative, gather support and funds, and carry out their service projects from start to finish.

Spark the Wave provides specialized training to middle- and high- school students, enhancing their ability to make a greater impact in their community through instructional, fun, and collaborative projects. The summer program functioned for over three decades under the auspices of the American Red Cross of Southeastern Pennsylvania before becoming an independent non-profit in 2004.

“It is the kind of time where you can go a week without TV and you wouldn’t even notice it,” one camp alumnus said.