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## **PROJECT TRANSFORMATION'S EDUCATIONAL SUMMER PROGRAM SERVES 1,000 STUDENTS, GRADES 1 – 12, IN NORTH TEXAS**

**Dallas, TX – June 29, 2017** – Local education-based nonprofit organization, Project Transformation North Texas, celebrates its 19<sup>th</sup> Summer Program and serves 1,000 students, grades 1 – 12.

Utilizing a combination of best practices as well as innovations derived from their own program experience, Project Transformation's Summer Program has been designed to remove the poverty-related obstacles to learning. The Summer Program is designed to augment the school curriculum and all program activities are aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) objectives.

Alyson Gregory Richter, Executive Director, shares, "A key component of our strategy involves developing relationships between children and young adult role models who are accepting, supportive, and empowering. This structure, in which age-appropriate learning objectives are delivered with support from loving adults, builds the personal strengths, self-esteem, and confidence among children while also fostering a lifelong love of learning."

Project Transformation expects another record-breaking summer, with summer programming for more than 1,000 children and youth at ten United Methodist Church program sites led by 123 college-aged young adults. The program runs from June to August, Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 123 college-aged young adults, or "PT Corps Members" as they are called, represent 63 colleges and universities and 17 different states; 55 have served with Project Transformation previously; and, perhaps most exciting, 18 of these exceptional young people participated in Project Transformation as children and youth, and are returning now to serve with the program.

Elsbeth Allen Glaubitz, Program Manager, says, "We call these young leaders in this special group our Kid-to-Corps Members. These Kid-to-Corps Members return to serve with Project Transformation for two primary reasons: (1) through their experience, including participation in Project Transformation, they have learned the importance and empowerment of service; and (2) they want to invest in the program that invested in them."

The Summer Program curriculum is designed to empower, stretch, and hold children and youth accountable through a focus on social-emotional skills such as kindness, courage, cooperation, self-control, and gratitude. Research shows that as children expand the number of individuals with whom

they have strong relationships with they become more motivated academically and take more responsibility for their own actions. Additionally, with each strong relationship they form, the likelihood that they will engage in high-risk behaviors decreases.

The Summer Program also revolves around literacy with every child receiving a minimum of 40 minutes of one-to-one reading enrichment with a community volunteer each day, Monday through Thursday. This element of Project Transformation's programming would not be possible without the donated time of over 1,300 reading volunteers who annually commit to reading one-on-one with the children. At the end of the summer, each child will have received over 24 hours of individualized reading instruction, significantly impacting their likelihood of academic success in the coming school year. Project Transformation's goal is to see at least 95% of all program participants maintain or improve in their reading abilities throughout the course of the summer.

To schedule a site visit at one of Project Transformation's ten locations in North Texas, please reach to Kelsey Borgeson, Donor Relations and Communications Manager, at [borgeson@ptnorthtexas.org](mailto:borgeson@ptnorthtexas.org).

**About Project Transformation North Texas:**

Founded in 1998, Project Transformation is an evidence-based program model that engages young adults in purposeful leadership, supports underserved children and families, and connects churches to communities in need. Our program builds the self-esteem and academic abilities, including the literacy skills, of children from low-income families while igniting in them a lifelong love of learning. Offered both after school and during the summer months, our curriculum focuses on the holistic development of each child as they age through the program from 1st-12th grade and emphasizes relationship building in a safe, community-oriented environment to help each young person realize their unique potential.

Within Project Transformation, the ideal path of each child is to begin with a focus on learning academic and literacy skills, then to begin strengthening their relationship skills, and eventually developing a clear set of moral values that will carry them through the rest of their lives. Our ambition is not simply to support our children as students, but to also give them a foundation for success in college, careers, and a service-focused life.

In its 19-year history, Project Transformation has equipped over 1,100 college students for future leadership and has served over 9,000 children and youth in need.

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