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April 30, 2020

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION ANNOUNCES SUMMER PROGRAM PLANS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 AND NEED TO SHIFT FOCUS TO MEET MOST PRESSING NEEDS

Dallas, TX – April 30, 2020 – In light of COVID-19, Project Transformation has made the difficult decision to offer virtual programming and in-person food/supply distribution instead of their typical summer day camp for summer 2020. Leadership has voiced that the safety and health of everyone involved with Project Transformation remains their highest priorities and is what ultimately led them to this decision.

Eric Lindh, CEO of Project Transformation National, says, “Project Transformation may look different this summer, but our mission hasn’t changed. We are more determined than ever to harness the creative and collaborative spirit of our national network and meet the most pressing needs of our communities during this crisis. “

Project Transformation, operating through a network of eight, affiliated chapters, will provide 8-week virtual summer programming (June 8 - July 31) for children and youth in under-resourced communities. They anticipate serving over 2,000 children and youth, grades 1 – 12, during summer 2020.

This re-envisioned program will include: 1) distribution of supplies, food, books, and other fun and educational resources, and 2) engaging videos focused on social-emotional learning, reading, and camp-like enrichment activities. These videos will be delivered by young adults who will work collaboratively across the Project Transformation network.

In addition to our programs for children and youth, Project Transformation plans to coordinate daily and weekly vocational discernment experiences for college-age young adults, both for those serving with Project Transformation this summer and a wider audience as well.

Casey Camacho, VP of Programs for Project Transformation National, says, “I’m hopeful and excited about the way the Project Transformation network is coming together to meet the physical and emotional needs of its communities across the country during this unprecedented time. Summer isn’t cancelled! We’re still here. We will help meet the physical needs of children and families by providing food and educational supplies, and we will still provide fun and engaging social emotional and literacy lessons for children and youth led by young adults. We will do our best to bring summer fun right into the homes of our children and families!”

This pandemic continues to highlight and widen societal inequities, further marginalizing already vulnerable communities. Families with fewer financial resources are being impacted disproportionately as they struggle with food insecurity, unemployment, and insufficient digital access and learning opportunities for their children. This is why Project Transformation is prioritizing the distribution of food, books, fun and educational activities, art supplies, as well as virtual mentoring and peer-to-peer support focusing on social emotional interventions wherever possible.

To learn more, please visit www.projecttransformation.org or contact Eric Lindh at lindh@projecttransformation.org.

About Project Transformation:

Across the country, Project Transformation offers an evidence-based program model that: engages 3,000 vulnerable children with positive young adult role models in a safe, supportive environment that develops both their literacy skills and their character; equips 375 college-age young adults in purposeful leadership and ministry exploration; and, supports urban United Methodist churches in 43 different low-income communities to become a more vibrant, engaging presence within their neighborhoods. Among the many results we deliver, one of our most significant outcomes is that 97% of the children whom we serve avoid the “summer slide” by maintaining or improving their reading levels during the summer breaks. However, our ambition is not simply to support our children as students, but to also give them a foundation for success in college, careers, and service-focused, adult lives.

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