



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Media Contact:**

Kelsey Burgess – 858-453-9600 ([kelsey@behmedia.com](mailto:kelsey@behmedia.com))

Dennis Ellman – 858-335-9834 (cell) ([dme@behmedia.com](mailto:dme@behmedia.com))

***Hand Up* Teen Leadership Program at Jewish Family Service of San Diego Receives Sodexo Foundation Grant to Fight Childhood Hunger on Global Youth Service Day 2014**

**San Diego, California, March 17, 2014** – The *Hand Up* Teen Leadership Program at Jewish Family Service of San Diego has been awarded a Sodexo Foundation Youth Grant through YSA (Youth Service America). The grant will support the *Hand Up* Teen Leadership Program in leading a community service project that addresses the issue of childhood hunger.

The *Hand Up* Teen Leadership Program and Qualcomm will host a teen film screening of the major motion picture, *A Place at the Table*. This film examines the issue of hunger in America through the lens of three people struggling with food insecurity. The screening will take place on Wednesday, April 9th at 6:00 PM at the Q Theater at Qualcomm, 6455 Lusk Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92121. The audience will consist of high school teens from all over San Diego County. The purpose of the screening is to give teen leaders a sense of food insecurity and hunger in their community, and to inspire them to take a stand and begin actively volunteering and running food drives with the *Hand Up* Youth Food Pantry.

One-hundred grants of up to \$500 were awarded to youth-led projects that aim to reduce childhood hunger in local communities throughout America. Grantees educate and mobilize their peers around the issue, creating solutions to end childhood hunger. Sodexo Foundation Youth Grants empower young people as problem-solvers working to improve the well-being and quality of life for their generation.

The *Hand Up* Teen Leadership Program joins millions of other young people around the world to celebrate Global Youth Service Day, April 11 to 13, 2014. Now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, Global Youth Service Day recognizes the positive impact that young people have on their communities 365 days a year. As the largest service event in the world, Global Youth Service Day is celebrated in more than 135 countries and all 50 states.

“As communities are challenged by the reduction in public resources, it makes our vision of a hunger-free America more difficult to attain,” said Robert A. Stern, chair, Sodexo Foundation. “Each Sodexo Foundation Youth Grantee is doing their part to tackle an issue that directly affects one in five of their peers. It will be through their actions and ingenuity that we will one day see an end to childhood hunger in America.”

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*YSA (Youth Service America) improves communities by increasing the number and diversity of young people, ages 5 to 25, serving in substantive roles. Through campaigns, grant programs, resource development and training opportunities, YSA promotes a global culture of engaged youth committed to a lifetime of service, learning, leadership and achievement. As a campaign of YSA and the largest service event in the world, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) celebrates and mobilizes the millions of children and youth who improve their communities each day of the year through service. GYSD 2013 will be held April 11-13 in more than 135 countries on six continents. For more information, visit [www.YSA.org](http://www.YSA.org) and [www.GYSD.org](http://www.GYSD.org).*

***Sodexo in North America***

*Sodexo, Inc. ([www.sodexoUSA.com](http://www.sodexoUSA.com)), leading Quality of Life services company in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, delivers On-site Services in Corporate, Education, Health Care, Government, and Remote Site segments, as well as Benefits and Rewards Services and Personal and Home Services. Sodexo, Inc., headquartered in Gaithersburg, Md., funds all administrative costs for the Sodexo Foundation ([www.SodexoFoundation.org](http://www.SodexoFoundation.org)), an independent charitable*

*organization that, since its founding in 1999, has made more than \$22 million in grants to end childhood hunger in America. Visit the corporate blog at [blogs.sodexousa.com](http://blogs.sodexousa.com).*