

President Bush Underscores Commitment To Nation's Youth

Signs Declaration "Fulfilling The Promise Of America"



President Bush signs a declaration as America's Promise Chairman Marc Racicot looks on.

(NAPSA)—At a recent White House event recognizing the good work of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth and its more than 1,000 partners, communities and states, President Bush underscored his commitment to the nation's young people by signing a declaration supporting the Five Promises of America's Promise: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, marketable skills and opportunities to serve. The Five Promises are fundamental resources that young people need to grow up with character and competence.

"We know what children need to succeed. They need mentors and role models. They need to be healthy and educated and challenged to serve," said President Bush. "I want to thank America's Promise. I want to thank the thousands all across our land who are working hard to make America a fabulous country for all."

Prior to the signing, America's Promise Chairman Marc Racicot, Founding Chairman Colin L. Powell and President and CEO Peter Gallagher met with President Bush in the Oval Office and presented him with the America's Promise *Report to the Nation 2001*. The nearly 650-page report

chronicles the specific commitments of America's Promise partners, communities and states to build the character and competence of the nation's youth.

"Our *2001 Report to the Nation* documents thousands of activities all across this great country and within every sector that makes our democracy work—government, business, education, labor and faith-based organizations," said America's Promise Chairman Marc Racicot. "It involves those who have, and those who do not. It involves young and old devoted to a common mission, one that I know is important to our President: mobilizing armies of compassion to ensure that we leave no child behind."

In signing the declaration, and recognizing the importance of the Five Promises for all children, President Bush joins former Presidents G.H.W. Bush, Carter, Clinton, Ford and Reagan, in their shared commitment to making children and youth a national priority.

To join this crusade for youth in your community, visit www.americaspromise.org; AOL Keyword: America's Promise or call 1-888-55-YOUTH.