



# STUDENT VOLUNTEER NETWORK

**For Immediate Release:** September 15, 2003

**Contact:** Patrick Jobin or Stephen Julia, Co-Directors of Communication at **303-215-4538** or **Media@SVNusa.org**

## ***High School Seniors Launch Network to Connect Nonprofits, Student Volunteers***

(Denver, Colorado) While most high school seniors are looking forward to graduation and college, three local seniors have other issues on their minds: launching a nonprofit organization to help fellow students meet increasingly widespread service learning requirements. The **Student Volunteer Network** (SVN) connects high school student volunteers and nonprofit organizations through a simple Internet portal. SVN is the first student-initiated, student-run organization in Colorado to link nonprofits with teen volunteers.

Created by seniors Patrick Jobin, Stephen Julia, and Charlie Miller, SVN offers a website with a comprehensive database of volunteer opportunities in Colorado specifically for students. Through this online portal, students search for service opportunities that interest them, and nonprofit organizations access enthusiastic young volunteers.

"We found it hard to find meaningful volunteer opportunities," says Stephen Julia, one of the founders. "And we knew lots of our peers had the same problem. So we started SVN." SVN's goal is to help students realize there are many interesting and fun opportunities for service in the nonprofit sector, and to help organizations take advantage of the large population of student volunteers.

Over 130 local nonprofits have signed up to use SVN's services, and five schools—East High School, Colorado Academy, Kent Denver, George Washington High School, and Graland Country Day School—have committed to use the site. As the technology is perfected and the site proves its usefulness, more schools and organizations will join and participate.

SVN is the first student-led project ever accepted by the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center, which is currently supervising fifty nascent nonprofits. In addition to guidance from the Center, SVN has formed a partnership with Metro Volunteers to share resources and promote teen volunteerism. The three students share all administrative responsibilities, with Jobin overseeing technology and Julia and Miller managing communications, public relations, and marketing. By donating all of their time and securing support from forty donors, the founders have ensured that SVN will always be free of charge for every student, school, and nonprofit.

The founders are looking to the future, working hard to create a successful and stable organization before they go to college. They are partnering with community leaders to establish an advisory board that will ensure the future of SVN, and also planning an application process for new student leaders so that SVN will remain true to its goal of being 100% student-run and student-oriented.

For more information, visit **www.SVNusa.org** or contact Patrick Jobin or Stephen Julia, Co-Directors of Communication at **303-215-4538** or **Media@SVNusa.org**.



# STUDENT VOLUNTEER NETWORK

## Student Volunteer Network (SVN) Fact Sheet

**Mission:** Our mission is to connect students, schools, and organizations seeking volunteers through an online portal.

Our goal is to facilitate the interaction among these groups thereby promoting student volunteerism. By increasing awareness and making volunteer opportunities easily accessible to students, we seek to encourage fulfillment through volunteering.

**Who:** SVN was founded by three high school students: Patrick Jobin, Stephen Julia, and Charlie Miller, who share all administrative responsibilities.

SVN is a project of the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center (CNDC), which provides organizations with nonprofit status and legal and financial support. SVN is the first student-led project ever accepted by the Center, which is currently supervising more than fifty projects.

SVN has also formed a partnership with Metro Volunteers, a local organization that promotes volunteerism in Colorado. Since SVN and Metro Volunteers have the common goal of promoting volunteerism, the two organizations have worked closely to share ideas and resources.

**What:** SVN is a student-led nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting the high school and nonprofit communities in Colorado. Currently, there is no local service that addresses this specific need. The Student Volunteer Network is unique because it is the first organization in Colorado to provide high school students with simple and convenient access to meaningful volunteer opportunities in their community.

**When:** SVN was founded in 2002. The website is functional for the 2003-2004 school year.

**Where:** <http://www.SVNusa.org>

**Why:** Like many high school students, the three founders had difficulties finding meaningful volunteering opportunities for themselves with the limited resources available. They turned their experiences into action, and the result is the Student Volunteer Network, which hopes always to remain by students, for students.

**How:** Through the generosity of forty private donors and a Colorado Academy EPYCS Grant, SVN started with over \$7500 in funds. In addition, all three directors have donated all of their time to this project, and in-kind donations are estimated to be worth over \$70,000. As a project of the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center, SVN uses the center's 501(c)(3) status, so all donations to SVN are tax deductible.

**Statistics:** Almost 83 percent of high school seniors in 2001 said they volunteered before college compared to 66 percent in 1989.

More than half of American public high schools and the majority of independent schools now require service hours for graduation, so many more students are volunteering. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the number of student volunteers has increased by 686 percent from 1984 to 1997.

According to a report by Independent Sector and Youth Service America, people who begin volunteering at a young age are twice as likely to volunteer as adults.

\*Statistics taken from "Charity's Youth Movement" by Domenica Marchetti published in the January 9, 2003 addition of *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

57 out of 60 (95%) high school students interviewed said they did not have the resources at hand to easily find a volunteer opportunity that interested them. A vast majority of polled students also agreed that if they had an easier way to locate volunteer opportunities they would volunteer more of their time.

Over 180 local nonprofits have signed up to post opportunities on SVN's site.

7 schools will participate in the initial launch.

**Contact: Student Volunteer Network**

PO BOX 460968  
Glendale, CO 80246

Phone: 303-215-4540  
Toll-Free: 888-313-7227

Media E-Mail: [Media@SVNusa.org](mailto:Media@SVNusa.org)

**Patrick Jobin**

Co-founder  
Director of Technology  
[PJobin@SVNusa.org](mailto:PJobin@SVNusa.org)  
303-215-4543

**Stephen Julia**

Co-founder  
Director of Communication  
in charge of Nonprofit Coordination and Development  
[SJulia@SVNusa.org](mailto:SJulia@SVNusa.org)  
303-215-4538

**Charlie Miller**

Co-founder  
Director of Communication  
in charge of School Relations  
[CMiller@SVNusa.org](mailto:CMiller@SVNusa.org)  
303-215-4539



# STUDENT VOLUNTEER NETWORK

## SVN Co-Founder Biographies

**Patrick Jobin**, Director of Technology, is currently a senior at Kent Denver. Since the seventh grade, Patrick has taken a strong interest in technology, and has run an internet solutions company, Wheeler and Jobin, for over five years. Patrick taught himself all his technological skills, which includes extensive knowledge of HTML, ASP, CGI, pearl, XML, Flash, CFM, Java, database integration, and graphic technologies; he has designed hundreds of web pages using these innovative technologies. Patrick also has a strong background with networking and server infrastructures that he developed as the Chief Operating Officer of hostopia.net. He is now getting more involved with the banking system as President of the Kent Denver Credit Union, the largest student-run credit union in the world and a branch of the Gateway Credit Union. Academically, Patrick's achievements have been recognized by his placement on the Headmaster's List and the High Academic Honor Role as well as his initiation into the national Cum Laude Society.

**Stephen Julia**, Director of Communication in charge of Nonprofit Coordination and Development, is also a senior at Kent Denver. Stephen is interested in business and has experience with investing, consulting, and web design. He plans on pursuing his business interest in college and as a profession. An honor roll student, Stephen also enjoys golf, tennis, and the visual arts. A number of Stephen's paintings and ceramics have been in art shows throughout the Denver area. Stephen also participates in the technical theatre program at Kent. Stephen values the nonprofit sector, is committed to volunteering, and has given his time to many organizations in the community.

**Charlie Miller**, Director of Communication in charge of School Relations, is currently a senior at Colorado Academy. Charlie has a strong interest in the nonprofit sector, as his family has a long tradition of charitable giving and both of his parents work for community foundations. Charlie is a motivated honor roll student who also enjoys acting (he has appeared in over forty productions in Denver), soccer (he is the captain of the Colorado Academy men's varsity team), and reading (he is the founder of his school's *War and Peace* Club). Privately, Charlie does graphic design, production, and consulting for Graland Country Day School and enjoys volunteering for the VA Nursing Home and PHAMALy (the Physically Handicapped Amateur Musical Actors League).



# STUDENT VOLUNTEER NETWORK

## **Philosophy Statement**

It is our belief that, if given the opportunity, students are capable of making significant contributions to their community. However, not many youth understand the nonprofit sector and how it fits into the whole of society. Increasing numbers of students are gaining technical and business skills and are involved in the private sector. Our vision is to give students access to every aspect of the nonprofit sector and to help them use their skills and talents to improve society. The Student Volunteer Network was founded by students, and should forever remain student run. With an experienced advisory board to mentor and guide student leaders, SVN can maintain its philosophy to be a successful organization run by students, for students.