



*For immediate release  
February 14, 2012*

**Topeka, Kansas** - Kids Voting USA (KVUSA) is pleased to announce that their national "Making an Impact" contest application process has come to an end. Rachel Willis, executive director mentioned, "we had many outstanding applicants and although we would love to pick them all, we will only be able to choose two of the groups representing each age range". The Engaging Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Civic Leadership Symposium will begin on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 9am in Washington D.C. located in the Ronald Reagan International Building Rotunda.

KVUSA will select a winning student group from a 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade range and another student group from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade range within the next week. Each winning student group will have an all expenses paid trip to our Nation's capital, Washington D.C., where they will be presenting their winning projects. These presentations will be broadcast via Cisco Webex Systems to classrooms all around the country. Additionally, KVUSA also will have an international speaker presenting on her civic engagement experience, and other key civic engagement organizations will share details about their current projects.

In the afternoon, Kids Voting USA is hosting their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraising luncheon. Since 1992, KVUSA has worked with more than 4.5 million K-12 students in civic education and citizenship with a particular focus and a national standard based curriculum that promotes informed voting, technology and media literacy, and service learning and community engagement. The event is open to the public for a \$125 seat purchase. During the event, the Making an Impact student winners and the Educator of the Year will be recognized. The audience also will hear from the keynote speaker, Mr. Mike McCurry. Mr. McCurry served as the press secretary for the Bill Clinton administration and is a consultant for Public Strategies Washington. Diana Carlin, chairman of the board stated that, "the organization is honored to have Mr. McCurry joining us for the afternoon segment. Mike is dedicated to youth civic engagement projects and has been a long-time supporter of Kids Voting. "

For the specifics about the Engaging Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Civic Leadership Symposium and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraising luncheon go to [www.kidsvotingusa.org/EYT2012](http://www.kidsvotingusa.org/EYT2012).

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*Kids Voting USA is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to secure the future of democracy by preparing young people to be educated, engaged citizens. KVUSA operates through a national network of community-based affiliates that partner with schools and election officials to offer more than four million K-12 students a wide range of opportunities for civic learning. For more information, visit [www.kidsvotingusa.org](http://www.kidsvotingusa.org).*

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