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10/5/88

YES TO AMERICA YOUTH ENTERING SERVICE TO AMERICA

George Bush announced today his proposal for the creation of Youth Entering Service to America, a challenge grant program designed to spur more young people to serve their communities as a continuing and routine part of their daily lives in high schools, college, and after graduation.

George Bush believes in the volunteer ethic in this nation. George Bush believes that young people, given the leadership and opportunity, will work to address the needs of their communities, community needs that range from the greening of a roadside park, to the repair and improvement of neighborhood housing. George Bush will provide the leadership, and will work with the communities of this country to ensure the opportunity.

George Bush knows that many young people volunteer for community service today. The Gallup Organization in a 1985 survey revealed that 52% of young people aged 14 to 17 had undertaken volunteer work. But George Bush believes we should do better.

The United Way has called for a doubling of giving and volunteering by 1992. George Bush believes that to meet these goals, we need the full participation of our young people, and if we are to sustain our achievements, we need their commitment to serve their communities and their fellow citizens at an early age.

YES to America will further inspire young Americans to fulfill this fundamental part of their heritage: duty to their country and to their fellow citizens.

George Bush will request up to \$100 million in federal funds for the YES to America Foundation to match on a one-to-one basis private donations up to \$100 million. The \$200 million generated in this effort will give new meaning to the term "public-private partnership" and will be dedicated to creating local community and school-based programs to involve teenagers and young adults in volunteer service to meet the needs of their communities. Its growth will be determined by community and school-based private sector fundraising.

YES to America will generate new volunteer opportunities in schools and communities, and also will work with existing youth volunteer programs, such as conservation corps. The Foundation will emphasize the development of school-based volunteer programs to enable students to give volunteer service while maintaining their scheduled studies, work, and sports or other extra-curricular activities. George Bush believes that the most important principle is the time given, even five hours a week.

With support and input from the private sector and the Federal government, the best of existing volunteer service programs will be expanded, new initiatives will be developed, and citizen service will become an integral part of every young American's duty to citizenship and freedom.

The YES to America Foundation will be chaired by the President of the United States who will appoint a national volunteer Board of Directors composed of the best in government, the private sector, and volunteer organizations. The Board will develop the criteria for matching funds, the application process, and plans for community and state direction.

George Bush will place before the Foundation his criteria for fundraising and program awards to ensure that the Foundation adds to, but does not supplant, current community efforts. George Bush believes the Foundation should focus its efforts to initiate or expand programs that:

1. Are service-oriented, emphasizing service to others as their primary missions;
2. Will aid in the student's knowledge of and appreciation for others, with special emphasis on those programs that cross generations through partnerships and teams that would pair high school and college age youth with senior citizens;
3. Are community-driven, responding to community needs identified by local citizens and leaders and coordinated through community-based organizations.

George Bush believes that the YES to America Foundation should finance technical assistance and research activities to increase and improve community service. The YES to America Foundation will serve as a clearinghouse to assemble and disseminate information on the many activities in national service and youth service.

YES to America will be a program of opportunities for national service to meet our country's most pressing needs and to encourage young Americans to engage in the building of a better society.

George Bush believes that YES to America volunteers will serve a wide variety of community needs from counselling their fellow students to working with senior citizens.

George Bush believes that student volunteers can be the most meaningful in serving as role models and positive influences in the lives of their peers and of younger students. Particularly in the areas of substance abuse, teen suicide, teen pregnancy, and dropping out, few counsellors can have greater impact on the

self-destructive behavior of a young student than a well-prepared fellow student. The YES to America Foundation will support funding for training for young volunteers to serve their peers in school.

George Bush also believes in strengthening the bonds between generations. Too many children through divorce or transfers live far from grandparents or other older relatives, causing young people to do without the love and wisdom of an older generation, and leaving seniors without the happiness of sharing a young person's growth. George Bush envisions a partnership between young and older volunteers, partnerships that will not only benefit their community, but the partners as well. The YES to America Foundation will seek out opportunities to create youth/senior partnerships.

George Bush believes that volunteers can address the physical needs of a community from restoring housing for the community's residents to cleaning city parks and roadways. He believes that community service in urban communities and rural communities is of equal importance to the lives of the volunteers and to the longevity of the community spirit. The YES to America Foundation will support volunteer efforts in all types and sizes of communities

These are just a few examples of the ways young people are helping out in their communities. YES to America will increase the opportunities for volunteers by working with the nation's school systems and institutions of higher learning to develop organized community service opportunities for students. And it will work to establish these goals as priorities of state boards of education, state legislatures, the Education Commission of the States, and other organizations.

YES to America will give every young American the opportunity to serve, to learn by serving and to develop leadership skills for tomorrow as they address the needs of their communities.

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