

For Immediate Release  
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**Partners International Foundation and Virginia Wesleyan College  
Honor Volunteer with  
PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD AND PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM  
SCHOLARSHIP**

*Award is a Prestigious National Honor for Volunteer Service*

**Virginia Beach, Virginia – Partners International Foundation and Virginia Wesleyan College** today announced it has awarded a volunteer with the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, a national honor offered in recognition of volunteer service.

Katie Morris, a Freshman at Virginia Wesleyan College achieved the highest level of volunteer participation and was awarded the Presidential Gold level for completing some 250 hours of volunteer service.

Established in 2003, the AWARD is available on an annual basis to individuals, groups and families who have met or exceeded requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering. As one of hundreds of Certifying Organizations participating in the AWARD program, **Partners International Foundation** confers the award to recognize the outstanding achievements of its volunteers.

In addition to the AWARD, Katie Morris was also named as a recipient of a \$1,000 Presidential Freedom Scholarship from the Corporation for National and Community Service and **Partners International Foundation** in acknowledgement of her outstanding commitment to public service.

The Presidential Freedom Scholarship is a national initiative that promotes young people's leadership in community service. The Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Presidential Freedom Scholarship, provides recipients a \$500 scholarship to pay for their college education. The award is matched with \$500 from **Partners International Foundation**.

“Community service is an integral part of what it means to be an American citizen, and these young adults are exercising their duty with great distinction,” explained David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. “We're proud to be able to offer these scholarships, which recognize outstanding service-related achievements, build community partnerships, provide educational opportunity, and spur other young people to get involved in service and volunteering.”

More than 37,000 scholarships have been awarded since the program's inception in 1997. This recognition would not be possible without the support of York High school who

supported Katie Morris' nomination and **Partners International Foundation**.

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through three programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. Together with the USA Freedom Corps, the Corporation is working to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America.

**Partners International Foundation** has a long history of volunteer service, and volunteers perform community service each year on behalf of the organization. Partners International Foundation is 100% volunteer with no paid employees. They have a history of success helping those in need. Partners International Foundation's work provides a positive impact globally and locally. Over the years Partners International Foundation's support has ranged from Boy Scouts in America to Women and Children in Rwanda, Grenada, the former Soviet Republics and more. Its volunteers worked in Afghanistan, Iraq, Nepal and other locations. In the United States the foundation has supported K-12 education, women and children's wellness, the disabled, battered women's sheltered, and the Foundation was one of the first to respond with monetary support to the families of soldiers who died in the War on Terrorism.

"In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush created the USA Freedom Corps, and called on every American to make a lifelong commitment to volunteer service. The PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD recognizes individuals and families who have answered that call," said David Kildee of **Partners International Foundation**

"America's volunteers work to make our communities stronger and safer. As a Certifying Organization for the AWARD program, **Partners International Foundation** is proud to be aligned with this prestigious volunteer award, and we are especially proud of our volunteers who have made volunteer service a central part of their lives."

The PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD is an award for volunteer service that every American – from every age and every walk of life – can aspire to achieve. To be eligible to receive the AWARD, individuals, families and groups submit a record of their annual volunteer service hours to participating Certifying Organizations, such as **Partners International Foundation**, that will verify the service and deliver the AWARD. AWARD eligibility for individuals and groups is based on hour requirements varying by age.

"These recipients of the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD are role models for all Americans," **Kildee** said. "Each volunteer hour contributed makes a difference in improving the quality of life for others, and I encourage everyone to contribute to our community by volunteering. Volunteers bring us closer together as families, as communities and as a Nation, through their commitment."

The AWARD is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation,

a group created by President Bush to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making to our Nation. Chaired by two-time Super Bowl Champion Darrell Green, with former U.S. Senators Bob Dole and John Glenn as honorary co-chairs, the Council comprises leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, education, nonprofits and volunteer service organizations, and community volunteering.

Katie Morris, daughter of Colonel Bob and Kim Morris of Yorktown, Virginia Katie Morris has a long history of self-less service to her community and the world. At the Age of 10, when her father helped found the public charity Partners International Foundation, Katie began The Youth Association of Understanding, a project designed to provide a forum for children to become involved with humanitarian programs and gain an increased awareness of human rights. While living in Columbus, Georgia, Katie often volunteered to work with children of international military officers studying at Fort Benning. In so doing Katie merged her passion for learning new languages and about new cultures with teaching children English and educating them about the United States, its people, and democracy. Katie's efforts in this and other projects supporting soldiers and their families at Fort Benning earned her the Shield of Sparta Award from the National Infantry Association in 1998. Katie expanded her volunteerism in 2001 by assisting her mother in presenting a course to prepare women immigrants to take and pass the U.S. citizenship test.

Katie's interest in supporting those in need translated into profound action in 1998. She organized some of her fellow students at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Columbus, Georgia to help inventory, package, and prepare donations of medical supplies and equipment from Indian Health Service and local hospitals through Muscogee Rotary in Columbus, Georgia. The scope of the project's potential impact was so profound Dr. Theogene Rudasingwa, Rwanda's Ambassador to the United States, personally traveled to Columbus, Georgia to thank Katie and her fellow volunteers. Dr. Rudasingwa was quoted in the local media saying

"I have not mobilized this amount of equipment from the U.S. government in my three years in Washington". Also in 1998, Katie continued her support to these programs supporting Women and Children's Wellness by helping prepare and ship approximately \$2.8 million in donated medical supplies and equipment to support Women and Children's Wellness in Grenada. Katie's efforts resulted in a successful project of which Denis Antoine, Grenada's Ambassador to the United States, personally wrote, "...Your gesture will always be cherished in our hearts." In yet another project that continues to this date, the donations Katie assisted with provided over

The donated medical items Katie assisted with resulted in providing over \$7,500 in medical supplies and equipment to support free eye care in rural Zimbabwe.

Devastated by the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Katie began a program to raise funds for the children who lost parents in the War on Terrorism by organizing a book signing for charity by Robin Moore (author of the Green Berets) that raised funds and dispersed them to a family of the first U.S. Soldier killed in Afghanistan. She assisted

with yet another Rotary project that provided an Electro-Cardiograph Machine to a remote hospital in Northern Afghanistan.

Katie enjoys writing and at the age of 17 had two of her poems commemorating soldiers who died serving their country published as chapter introductions to Robin Moore's best selling book Hunting Down Saddam. They were dedicated to the families of soldiers who lost their lives in the war on terrorism.

For her work leading up to this prestigious award and scholarship, Katie was previously honored with a Commanding General's Coin from the United States Army Special Operations Command for her work raising money and establishing scholarships for children who lost parents in the war on terrorism. She received the Army's Youth Certificate of Recognition by the Chief of Staff of the Army for her outstanding community support for the needy and those in Uniform. This award is normally given to Boy and Girl Eagle Scouts and it was a singular honor for a non-scout to receive it. Katie was Nominated by Georgia Governor Roy Barnes, Georgia Senator Zell Miller, Georgia Congressman Mac Collins, Georgia Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, and the Mayor of Columbus, Georgia for the Young American Medal for Service Award for her civic and volunteer work. Just prior to moving to Yorktown with her family, Katie was designated as a "Valley Hero" and subject of a Feature Story on WTVM (ABC) News, in Georgia for her volunteer work, particularly supporting children who lost parents fighting the war on terrorism.

Katie Morris plans to continue her volunteer service while at Virginia Wesleyan, joining with her fellow students in the College's strong tradition and program of community support. One of the projects she is currently leading involves raising sufficient resources for her and her fellow students to travel to Nepal and Tibet. Once there they will deliver critical TB vaccinations, work with various orphanages, and hope to do a student documentary on the conditions there and their experiences. At 20 active TB cases per 1000 individuals, the Tibetan refugee community has one of the highest rates of TB infection in the world. This project is the only one of its kind in the world providing sustainable long-term assistance by reducing the critical vaccine shortage in Nepal.

If successful in organizing the project, students from Virginia Wesleyan will be paired with regional, humanitarian, and film industry experts who are donating their time to the project. Two of these are Virginia Wesleyan Alumni. The group will travel to Nepal and create a documentary on the dangerous journey of Tibetan refugees from China, through the mountains to Nepal, and eventually to India. In addition to the documentary itself, the project will have a profound impact on educating, involving students in world affairs and humanitarian work. Additional information is available on-line at [www.partners-international.org](http://www.partners-international.org).

Contributions to Partners international Foundation and programs such as Katie Morris' can be made on-line at: [www.partners-international.org](http://www.partners-international.org).

For more information about these project and to donate to support **Partners**

**International Foundation** and helping it continue its work, visit their website at [www.Partners-International.org](http://www.Partners-International.org) .

For further information on Katie Morris and this award contact: David Kildee (Partners International Foundation) at (617) 290-3242, **Mrs. Diane Hotaling** (Director of Community Service, Virginia Wesleyan University) at (757) 455-3216, Katie Morris at (757) 869-6929.

Accompanying photo files (other photos available upon request):

Presidential 1	Presentation by Bob Morris to Katie Morris
Presidential 2	Presentation by Bob Morris to Katie Morris
Presidential 6	Diane Hotaling and Katie Morris
Presidential 2	Katie Morris

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