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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Kids Hope United volunteer wins special award



**MT. VERNON, Ill. (Feb. 13, 2008)**—Robert Whiteside Jr., a volunteer with Kids Hope United’s Foster Grandparent Program in Mt. Vernon, has been chosen as a recipient for The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network Daily Point of Light Award, which honors individuals and groups that have made a commitment to motivate others to meet critical needs in their communities.

Whiteside serves Mt. Vernon School District #80 and has been a leader in many of the projects offered by the Foster Grandparent Program, including the Seamless Summer Feeding Program, for which he oversaw the feeding of more than 11,000 meals to children.



"Robert is a dedicated and caring volunteer who is always willing to go far and beyond to help any child. He believes every child is the community's responsibility, and we all need to help them in any way possible," said Jennifer Witzel, coordinator of the Foster Grandparent Program.

"We are so proud of Robert and his accomplishments. He is such an asset to the Foster Grandparent Program as are all of our volunteers who serve the children they so dearly love."

The Foster Grandparent Program provides people age 60 and older the opportunity to serve as mentors, tutors and friends to youth in their communities. Volunteer sites include schools, park district programs and day care centers.

Whiteside will be spotlighted on the Points of Light Web site at <http://www.pointsoflight.org/awards/dpol/winner.cfm?AwardNum=3663> on Monday, Feb. 18.

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**About Kids Hope United**

Kids Hope United is a private human service organization dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families. Kids Hope United offers a diverse array of prevention, intervention and community-based programs. Kids Hope United also specializes in child welfare system management, reform, consultation and training. With principal offices in Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and Florida, Kids Hope United serves more than 15,000 children and their families across the country each year. For more information, visit [www.kidshopeunited.org](http://www.kidshopeunited.org).

